Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-103 *1 June 1993*

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Cuba

Lage Interview on Castro, Foreign Markets

FL2805172593 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] On 28 May, GRANMA published the first part of the interview granted by Politburo member Carlos Lage, secretary of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers, to the Mexican newspaper EL SOL.

The first question by Mario Vasquez Rana deals with Lage's childhood in Cuba and his desire to become a doctor, like his father. Lage recalls with great pleasure and a certain nostalgia his career in a Havana City pediatric hospital and in Ethiopia. He adds: My family, friends, comrades, and everyone I have met have greatly contributed to who I am today. Lage stressed what his contact with Fidel has meant for his human and revolutionary development.

Next, Mario Vasquez Rana asks about Lage's interpretation of Fidel's statement during the recent elections. Lage explains that he believes that Fidel's answer to Diane Sawyer requires no further commentary because the answer is clear and direct to him. He adds that the Communist Party of Cuba has not officially met to analyze the interview. He adds that Fidel is fully entitled to his own opinions because he is above all a revolutionary and will do everything the people ask of him. Lage says: I am confident Fidel will do so because it is what he has done his whole life. If the people choose to nominate and elect him once again, I have no doubts he would accept.

Lage goes on to say that he does not believe that the generation that effected the Revolution is a previous generation but an up to date and valid generation; when that generation came into power, it was generally very young. During the interview Lage adds that in 1959 Fidel was 33 years old and there were ministers that were 22 of 25 years old. He stresses that the Revolution has always had its doors open to the youth and that presently, revolutionaries from diverse periods and ages work and interact together. Later, he adds that in its short historic experience, socialism has experienced patricide and schisms perhaps due to stubbornness, selfishness, or ambitions. Lage say: I am convinced socialism offers every possibility for the most natural [word indistinct].

In the first part of his interview to EL SOL, Lage states that he knows the Cuban people well and that they are a people who defend Marti, a man from another century, as someone close and alive. In the interview Lage expresses his conviction that those who have dedicated their lives to the fatherland will not be forgotten nor betrayed in Cuba. In response to a question on the participation of the youth in the work of the Revolution, Lage points out that this generation has an opportunity to face its own Moncada and Sierra in the fight against the deluge of problems ahead of us. Later on, Lage states that the revolutionary work is conducted in an open forum where all participants discuss, work, and have opinions with equality and without age distinctions.

In another part of the interview, Lage states that some affirm that socialism has failed but to speak of the triumph of capitalism is to deny how much pain and misery there is in the world. Lage adds that despite the collapse of this system in Eastern Europe the causes that provoked the rise of socialism still exist. Therefore, our flags remain aloft and the new generations can carry them proudly. He also states that there is no similarity between the present and the sixties because the Cuban people are better trained in every sense today and they face this challenge with optimism.

In response to another question by Mario Vasquez Rana, Lage points out that the problems being confronted by Cuba are very serious. Therefore, efforts are being made in every direction. Lage adds that the main effort is focused on solving the people's nutritional needs and that there is a responsibility to diversify exports without abandoning the sugar crop. Lage adds that news fields are being developed, particularly the scientific field. Lage explains to EL SOL that in order to confront the special period, a program is being developed to reduce fuel imports and that extraction and refining of nickel, as well as tourism, are gaining more weight for the Cuban economy.

Lage goes on to stress that Cuba's goal is to seek new markets. He also explains to Vasquez Rana that since Cuba's access to hard currency is limited, Cuba has given wide open possibilities to foreign investment in practically every field and in the most varied forms. Lage states that one of the main focuses of Cuba's efforts is to transform the international economic ties that were traditionally maintained with the former European Socialist Bloc. He says that Cuba's goal is to find new markets and expand them in the midst of an ever growing hostility of U.S. imperialism. Lage points out that this will be achieved because not everyone is willing to submit to the embarrassing revenge the United States has imposed against Cuba.

Lage, in another portion of the interview, stresses that Cuba has a highly trained human potential, a young and vigorous science that allows us to see the future with optimism, and a people for whom the values of the Revolution and socialism are not empty words but experienced realities, which we are not willing to relinquish. Lage states: We are more free than ever. He adds: We know the path to failure and that through self-sufficiency we can trust more in ourselves. He concludes that in the end there will be a positive change in our convictions and that a more socialist and renovated socialist society will emerge.

Lage on Economic Problems, Choices, Capital Flow

FL2905023193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The Torricelli Law is a true political anachronism, ridiculous, affected, and hysterical—affirmed Carlos Lage, executive secretary of Cuba's Council of Ministers.

In the second part of an interview carried today by the Mexican daily paper EL SOL, Lage disparaged the line of thought that maintains that the U.S. blockade of over 30 years' duration against our country is a factor in the people's unity.

He said: I think the population's unity is the result of the work of the Revolution, of the equity of the Revolution's ideas—although he did acknowledge that unity has indeed been boosted by the constant danger of aggression.

Carlos Lage explained that according to conservative calculations, Cuba has lost over $40 million because of the blockade: a fabulous figure for a country of only 10 million inhabitants.

Regarding economic emigration, Lage said that [words indistinct] Dominican Republic, but U.S. hostility and aggressions have always favored such emigration and, moreover, have brought political emigration.

He termed Washington's policy toward Cuba hypocritical when it denies visas to those who wish to travel to the United States, on the one hand, yet, on the other hand, accords a hero's welcome to those who illegally take a ship or a raft, risking the lives of innocent people.

Lage explained that the blockade also obliges Cuba to seek its imports in very distant markets, maintain very large inventories in warehouses and cold-storage facilities, and buy at higher prices because it has fewer choices, because we are charged for the risk incurrred when one trades with an enemy of the United States. As an example, he said that Cuba spent over $41.5 million for grain, chicken, and milk purchases in 1992 because of price differences, while it lost over $85 million dollars due to transport charges.

In the second part of his interview with the Mexican daily EL SOL, Lage noted that Cuba has the continent's most highly qualified labor force, that it charges no taxes on personal income, and that it allows profits to be taken out of the country freely; nevertheless, despite these facilities, the influx of capital has decreased.

It is impossible to imagine the amount of capital that would have already flowed into Cuba had the pressures from Washington not existed. Without the blockade, we would have one problem less to worry about, and we would (?not) be obliged to resort to inventing a thousand and one ways to obtain a piece of equipment or spare part when it is of U.S. origin—he said.

Lage admitted that Cuba's problems are economic and not political and said that for this reason, when certain people ask us for political changes, we think they are either unfamiliar with Cuba's reality or else are trying to play along with imperialism's game.

Lage added: We are willing to make economic changes. We accept the investment of private capital. We are ready to participate in free international trade. We are willing to integrate economically with Latin America—and yet the blockade is in opposition to this.

Lage pointed out that democracy, political pluralism, and human rights are concepts that can be truly valid only in a climate of social equality. Or, to put it another way, without social equality, there can be no true justice or democracy.

That is the reason we do not ask that others change their system, only that our own be respected, Lage maintained.

Lage explained that conservation plus restrictions is the formula that has allowed our country to exist while importing only 6 million tons of oil; and he affirmed that we are prepared for new restrictions should we be so obliged by circumstances. We know how our country would function without a single drop of oil.

Lage said he expects us to have a (?very) difficult 1993, and confirmed that fewer than 7 million tons of sugar will be produced this year, and that the results already being obtained in other spheres will not be able to compensate for the difficulties that will arise from that fact.

Lage expressed the opinion that Cuba was never a satellite. It has always been a star with its own light. We have maintained a stable country, without social explosions, without attacks on shops, without beggars in the streets. Lage said: It is true that an inconvenient egalitarianism has been created here, because of an excess of circulating [currency] that among those less patriotic serves as a disincentive to work. However, we will rectify that tendency at the appropriate time, he said.

Lage concluded by saying that we have won the right to be shown respect, and that we will perfect society without giving up what has been achieved.

Electric Plant Breakdown Affects Havana City Service

FL2805182693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Breakdowns in the Mariel thermoelectric plant's number seven unit have reinterrupted Havana City electrical service:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Arturo Mora de la Cruz] Right now, we have a situation in Havana City that is fairly difficult with regards to generating electricity. This situation has existed for several days, when we had some difficulties with the Cienfuegos and

Nuevitas electric plants. We experienced more difficulties in the capital this morning. I am here at the provincial office of the Basic Electricity Organization, in Havana City. I have the chief of this office here, Engineer Jorge Luis Fernandez Daniel. Good afternoon Jorge:

[Fernandez] Good afternoon, Mora. As you said, today-....[pauses] In addition to the fuel situation, which has been affecting the Cienfuegos and Camaguey plants, early this morning—at exactly 0430—we had difficulties with Mariel's number seven unit, a 100 megawatt unit, which had a breakdown. The power in Havana City and all municipalities has been out since 0430 this morning. These outages will continue throughout the afternoon and into the night citywide.

Right now, I think that approximately 130 megawatts have been cut. This is equal to approximately three-fourth....[pauses] Half of Havana City. This will continue all this afternoon and into the night. This is what I can tell you now. [end recording]

Problems Affect Water Supply

FL2905143493 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1407 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] A Havana City Aqueduct note informs the public that due to electricity service problems, that there have been problems with supplying water to several areas. The note indicates that resumption of this service depends on the normalization of the electricity flow.

Union Announces End to Unscheduled Outages

FL3105023593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] The National Electric Union announces that fuel pumping to the Diez de Octubre Thermoelectric Plant returned to normal on the night of 29 May and pumping to the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Plant in Cienfuegos returned to normal in the predawn hours of 30 May. As had been announced throughout the week, primarily on 21 and 22 May, severe power outages due to technical difficulties in the oil supply occurred at both plants. The power outages will diminish on 30 May, and only the scheduled outages should occur in the coming days.

Commentary Notes Conflicting U.S. Views on Blockade

PA3105020793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 May 93

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] It appears that the U.S. executive branch does not see Cuba as a priority, but in the U.S. Congress there are intense debates about lifting the inhumane blockade against the neighboring island.

Cuba is at the center of a law and two bills circulating in the U.S. Congress, which is an indication of the issue's growing significance. The legal basis for the U.S. policy is the ill-named Cuban Democracy Act, better known as the Torricelli law, which the executive branch signed at the end of 1992 to tighten the three-decade old economic blockade.

Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart, who is of Cuban origin, and Senator Connie Mack, both Republicans from Florida, introduced a bill in February to internationalize the blockade. The promoters of this initiative and of the Torricelli law both intended to make the Cuban people surrender out of sheer hunger in the erroneous belief that they could decide Cuba's future, ignoring the fact that this is the exclusive prerogative of the island's inhabitants.

Democratic Representative Charles Rangel, however, has proposed the exact opposite. He has introduced a bill to turn back the economic blockade.

The initiative of this black congressman who is encouraging relations with Latin America has drawn criticism from the most conservative sectors of U.S. society, where pressure from the so-called Cuban-American National Foundation is noticeable. This organization of Cuban-born exiles is characterized by its promotion of irrational hatred toward Cuba. Although its influence has waned following the change of administrations in the White House, it still has the financial power to launch anti-Cuban campaigns.

The polemics on Cuba show growing interest in the unjust blockade issue and make it clear that a significant portion of the U.S. population has misgivings about whether it is ethical, legal, or human to maintain the restrictive measures.

Any remaining doubts were dispelled by a delegation of Cuban Protestant ministers who returned recently from the United States, where they met with church leaders, congregations, legislators, and groups of Cubans, blacks, and Latin Americans who are in favor of improved relations with Cuba.

Foreign Ministry Communique Recognizes Eritrea

PA0106013693 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] The Cuban Government has recognized Eritrea as a new sovereign and independent state in Africa, according to a Foreign Ministry communique issued in Havana on 31 May.

The communique adds that the decision was made based on the basic, traditional principles of Cuban foreign policy, particularly on those related to respect for the right of a people to self-determination

The Foreign Ministry communique also expresses the respect and friendship Cubans feel for Eritreans, whom they hope will find the path to prosperity and well-being based on cooperation, harmony, and peace.

Alarcon Convenes First ANPP Sessions for 28 Jul

FL2905180193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has convened the first period of ANPP sessions for 28 July. The important meeting will begin at 1300 GMT on 28 July. The agenda of the deputies will include, among its main topics, energy conservation, the role of the energy commissions, and the operation of the people's and administration councils.

Institute Detects Disease on Farms in Havana Province

FL3105210693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] The Institute of Veterinary Medicine has issued a note, which advises that the presence of a disease called hemorrhagic fever virus [hemorragica viral], which did not exist in our country, has been detected in rabbit warrens in some of the municipalities of Havana Province, especially on private farms. The disease is an acute viral disease that causes a hemorrhagic septic symptom [cuadro septico hemorragico] in some adult rabbits, which has a high mortality rate, spreads fast, and is far reaching. The disease is transmitted by the contact of healthy rabbits with sick rabbits, and with any meat, or other material contaminated with the virus. The virus does not affect human beings or other species of animals.

In the last few months, no authorized importation of rabbits or related products has been made to Cuba from any country. Ever since the presence of the disease was suspected, control measures were taken but these have not been effective enough. Therefore, it is vital to increase the prevention and control of the disease to prevent its spreading to other provinces and be able to eradicate the disease.

The civil defense and the specialized scientific organizations ask for understanding and cooperation from the population, and all institutions and organizations in the application of the following measures:

Notify the state veterinary service if there is any suspicion of the disease being present; the complete slaughter of the existent game in affected rabbit warrens, and of those that have had contact with them; the cremation of sick animal bodies and the wastes of the slaughter; bury food leftovers and feces; clean and disinfect the areas; prohibit breeding on farms that have been affected for a minimum of 90 days; the slaughter of all rabbits in state and private sectors and the litters that are in a 3 km radius; prohibit the movement of live animals and their meats inside and out of the Havana Provinces; and the creation of a limit zone between the affected areas and the nonaffected areas. They have also advised that the meat from nonaffected animals can be consumed by the population.

In 1984, the hemorrhagic fever virus was reported for the first time in China. The disease then extended throughout the European continent and numerous African countries. In America, Mexico has been the only other country affected by the sickness, which was diagnosed in 1989 and eradicated at the beginning of 1993.

El Salvador

Cristiani Views Guatemala Political Situation

PA2805233093 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpt] President Alfredo Cristiani in a brief statement said that the government's position will be the same as the other Central American countries. Cristiani said the measures he will take will be similar to that taken several months ago, when President Alberto Fujimori carried out a self-inflicted coup in Peru.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What will the position be? Will there be a general condemnation?

[Cristiani] It is difficult to say. Some countries have made a stronger rejection of the events than others. Personally, I believe we should accept the facts; what is done is done. This does not mean we condone the action. Our main concern should be how to get Guatemala back on the democratic and constitutional track as soon as possible. [end recording]

The president said he would maintain the same position at the OAS meeting and he has asked President Jorge Serrano Elias to return to constitutional rule.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] There is no use in just voicing condemnation and doing nothing more. I believe the main thing is to get Guatemala back on the democratic track.

[Reporter] Will this be bad for the integration process?

[Cristiani] For the time being we will have to study that possibility carefully. I think it will cause some problems, but we hope that the return to constitutionality will come soon, as the Guatemalan president has stated, so that we can get back to the integration process. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Vargas Says FMLN Circumventing Peace Process

PA2805231493 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, deputy chief of staff, said that the discovery of a weapons arsenal in Nicaragua—that, according to the Nicaraguan Government, belongs to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]—is worrisome for El Salvador. Vargas, who participated in negotiations with the FMLN and signed the peace agreements, accused the guerrilla organization of concealing sophisticated weapons.

[Begin Vargas recording] It has now been publicly disclosed—much to my surprise—that the FMLN never reported what type of missiles it had, only the quantity, and the United Nations never looked into it. It is quite worrisome. [end recording]

Gen. Vargas believes it is possible that the FMLN intends to do the opposite of what it pledged in the peace agreements.

[Begin Vargas recording] They have a strategy. They are organized and want their actions to be sheltered by the peace agreements, which is totally unacceptable because it could promote the perpetration of future terrorist or violent actions with weapons that are allegedly floating around. They are not really floating because they are in the hands of the FMLN. [end recording]

According to the ranking military leader, there is evidence that the discovery of the weapons was not accidental. He wondered aloud why organizations that claim to defend peace in El Salvador have said nothing.

[Begin Vargas recording] The U.N. statement is worrisome. It is also worrisome that none of the organizations that talk about peace in the country have said anything. They are very concerned about peace in the country, but only where the government is concerned. They are not worried that the FMLN is really a part of the big picture or about the FMLN's future plans. [end recording]

Vargas pointed out that the government and Armed Forces have fulfilled all the agreements and that their main witness is the United Nations, but he warned that the Army will not tolerate a failure to fulfill the agreements.

Young Armed Forces Officers Group Proposes New Leaders

PA2805165093 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The organization called Young Officers of the Armed Forces [JOFA] proposed to the central government the appointment of Colonel Adan Turcios Valle as defense minister and Col. Jaime Guzman Morales as deputy defense minister.

The proposal, which includes naming Colonels Jose Garcia Prieto and Nelson Saldana Araujo to the Army General Staff, is a response to the government's intention to appoint officers who have spoken out against the country's democratic process as successors to the defense and deputy defense ministers on 1 July, states JOFA in a communique released on 24 May.

The group of officers, who claim to represent several military graduation classes, states its satisfaction with the development of the peace process and criticizes current Army General Staff members for assuming negative attitudes that put particular interests before the nation's interests. These attitudes do not guarantee the continuity of this social process.

In the same communique JOFA holds the Army General Staff responsible for respecting the military career path of the officers who have been proposed, as they consider it an important step in consolidating the country's democratic process.

High Command Rejects Junior Officers' Leader Selection

PA2905191393 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 27 May 93 p 24

[Armed Forces Bulletin No. 69 issued in San Salvador on 26 May]

[Text] "The Salvadoran Armed Forces High Command emphatically rejects the content of a communique supposedly distributed to the media on 24 May by an alleged group of junior officers in which they proceed to set forth situations contrary to Armed Forces' military discipline and institutional principles.

"Considering such allegations, and as result of the magnitude of the news coverage given to those 'pronouncements,' it is considered essential to clarify to public opinion that there is no dissident or isolated group within the Armed Forces intent on presenting proposals completely separate from the institutional and disciplinary context.

"Those anonymous documents originate from persons with dubious mentalities intent on dividing the military institution through this type of act. It is not the Armed Forces' inclination to propose candidates to occupy positions within the institution because disciplinary guidelines on these matters are respected by all members.

"For this reason it is clarified that, as indicated in Articles 168 and 162 of the countries' Political Constitution, only the President of the Republic and the Armed Forces Commander General have the power and are authorized to organize, conduct, and maintain the Armed Forces; bestow promotions; and order the destination, position, or discharge of any officer in accordance with the law. They are also empowered to appoint, remove, and accept the resignations of all state ministers and deputy ministers.

"As result of all this, the military high command reiterates that all Armed Forces members are convinced that their tasks are and will continue to be oriented toward supporting democracy. The Armed Forces is an obedient and nondeliberating institution, and discipline is the backbone that sustains it.

[Issued] "San Salvador, 26 May 1993"

FMLN Faction Leader Closes National Congress

PA3005050193 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 25 May 93 p 30

["Excerpts" of speech by Salvador Sanchez Ceren, secretary general of the People's Liberation Forces, FPL, at the closing ceremony of the first FPL National Congress at El Espino farm on 16 May]

[Text] The first Farabundo Marti FPL congress was a process that stemmed from the rank and file in all the municipalities, departments, and sectors where we work and falls within the framework of the preparation for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] National Convention.

This congress shows the FPL's decision to begin the necessary changes, redefinitions, and readjustments to meet the demands of the transition period. The FPL commits itself to working so the FMLN will continue forward with the national transformations to make possible a strong, dynamic, and renovating unity that will guarantee the construction of a new country with development, freedom, and national sovereignty.

Regarding the Country's Transition

The Chapultepec Agreements opened the path to democracy, modernization of the political system, respect for human rights, and reform of the basic state institutions. Those transformations have brought political stability to the country.

Nevertheless, the transition to democracy has not been consolidated. We still face the dilemma of leading the country toward the construction of a state of law and development with social justice or yielding ground to the forces that are trying to revert that process, aborting the basic reforms and imposing new forms of authoritarianism.

We must work to complete the demilitarization of the state and society. The the new National Civilian Police deployment must advance with a firm step. The judicial system must be purged and reformed. The land and credit problem of tens of thousands of people who lived in the most strife-torn areas during the war must be resolved. The Forum for Economic and Social Consensus must work effectively.

We are obliged to continue struggling to overcome the extreme poverty in which the majority of Salvadorans live so there will be political stability and social peace. We must be committed to guaranteeing the legitimate interests of the business sectors to prevent the destabilization of the process. Full democracy and development with equality are the great challenges of transition for a nation that will achieve stable, harmonious, and sure prosperity for everyone.

The FPL will work to reach the agreements that are needed among the FMLN, the democratic political parties, and the social and business sectors that are willing to work to push our country forward. We call on all people to undertake resolutely the political struggle to forge their own destiny.

Regarding the 1994 Elections

The 1994 elections will be decisive in consolidating and deepening the transformations begun by the peace agreements. In anticipation of an event of such historic importance for the country's future, we are convinced that the decisive influence of the democratic and revolutionary forces in the municipal councils, the Legislative Assembly, and the central government is essential to

lead the country's transition to the consolidation of democracy and economic development with social justice and for the implementation of a national plan that will be feasible in the short, medium, and long term.

We propose a political campaign based on agreed upon proposals that establish firm bases to solve the most heartfelt problems of the majority of the people: the problem of citizens' security, unemployment, the cost of living, access to potable water, the housing situation of hundreds of thousands of people who live on the outskirts of the cities, the problem of land and credit, defense of the ecological system, guarantees for adequate administration of justice, and the decentralization of public power.

We express our desire to participate in the exercise of power based on concerted efforts and nonexclusion of other sectors. We emphatically reject any plan to have one party or coalition of parties impose its ideas on the rest of society.

Our electoral strategy must be based on the need for a pact of governability with the country's most important economic, political, and social sectors. We must stress, however, that we do not accept the idea of making the country governable by entreating the grass-roots organizations not to struggle for their legitimate rights.

Our congress unanimously supported the decision to propose to the FMLN and the nation Mr. Ruben Zamora and companion Facundo Guardado as precandidates for the presidency and the vice presidency, respectively.

We believe that by heeding the people's interests and the nation's general interest, we will find the formula for unifying all the democratic and revolutionary forces to defeat the Nationalist Republican Alliance, win the 1994 general elections, and guarantee our country a better future.

After analyzing the current state of the composition of all the country's political forces, evaluating our contribution within the FMLN, weighing the historic role the FMLN has played throughout the period of armed struggle, and analyzing its evolution in times of peace, we have concluded that it is necessary to broaden the bloc of political and social forces that may unyieldingly defend the interests of the grass-roots sectors.

We will intensify our efforts to strengthen FMLN unity and broaden it with other parties and social forces that may identify themselves with the popular project, the unity of which is based on the agreement for a national project and a coherent program that may be clearly beneficial for the majorities.

What Kind of Party Must the FPL Be

Our first congress clearly outlined the traits of the kind of party the FPL must be: a party with dynamic and vigorous ties with all grass-roots sectors that can gather and defend their interests; a party with close ties between the rank and file and the directorate and in which democracy is exercised permanently and without restrictions; a party that may contribute to the broad and solid unification of the revolutionary and democratic forces in the country, that may bolster political debate, be flexible, and support concerted agreements; a party with the characteristics of a movement, permanently active and mobilized, and that may privilege and strengthen civilian society's power; a party capable of adopting and installing a new style of politics in the country, with clarity and honesty, to favor the majority and the rank and file; a party in which women may have rights and opportunities equal to those of men, and in which further participation, promotion, and development of women is bolstered through policies and mechanisms; and finally, a party that may endorse the incorporation of young people as much as possible and implement aggressive policies for their promotion and development.

Show of Solidarity

We want to express our gratitude and recognition to the members of the cooperative and residents of El Espino ranch for their hospitality and support which made it possible for us to hold the first congress there. The FPL chose that place to express our active solidarity with those who work for the preservation and development of the said farm as an ecological reserve that may guarantee the current and future generations of Salvadorans their right to water, clean air, and life.

With the peace agreements, we Salvadorans won the first great victory. We urge our people to consolidate the revolutionary and democratic unity and to strengthen the organization door to door, canton to canton, neighborhood to neighborhood.

We have the conviction that through this effort, our people will win the 1994 elections to consolidate democracy and peace.

[Dated] 16 May 1993.

PDC Elects Chavez Mena as Presidential Candidate

PA2805170893 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 25 May 93 p 58

[Text] Dr. Fidel Chavez Mena promised on 26 May that if he wins the 1994 elections, he plans to work toward ensuring Christian Democratic Party [PDC] unity, to include his political adversaries, and the establishment of a "shared government."

In reaffirming his victory in the PDC primary elections, the political leader declared: "We are going to undertake the necessary efforts to ensure the unity of all Christian Democrats, regardless of everyday or personal differences."

Followers of PDC candidate Abraham Rodriguez acknowledged Chavez Mena's victory, despite the fact that the party has not yet officially reported the results of its internal elections.

The winning candidate pointed out that he had received the support of more than 60 percent of the 19,000 votes cast during the internal election process on 23 May.

Chavez Mena said the primary elections had consolidated and united the party. He declared his satisfaction with the primary election process he helped to introduce in 1988 during his term as PDC secretary general.

The PDC is the first Salvadoran party to elect its candidate through primary elections or a grassroots voting system such as that used in other countries like the United States. Traditionally Salvadoran political organizations have elected their candidates at national conventions through a popular acclaim system.

"The party is going to emerge united and strengthened. That is the fundamental aspect: unity," emphasized the candidate, who hours earlier had been accused of being the main promoter of the divisions the PDC has experienced in the past few years.

In denying that the PDC is divided, Chavez Mena emphasized that "there will be no retaliations or divisions of any type."

Adolfo Rey Prendes, at one time a high ranking PDC member who was forced to abandon the party because of differences with Chavez Mena, stated on television that Chavez Mena had promoted divisions and the ouster of those party members who opposed him.

Lawyer Francisco Lima, who declared himself a Christian Democrat on 24 May, stated that he would never work with Chavez Mena, and accused him of being responsible for the loss of those unmarked border areas in the dispute with Honduras.

Chavez Mena refused to comment on the allegations, saying only: "Mr. Lima knows quite well this is not so."

The immediate issue Chavez Mena will have to deal with is making peace with the followers of fellow party members Abraham Rodriguez and Ricardo Acevedo Peralta. Both men were expelled from the party after differences with Chavez Mena over leadership issues.

According to the politician, the PDC "will participate alone in the elections. We will look for our own path and we must maintain our own identity." The PDC politician indicated that he is open to "political agreements during the second round."

Chavez Mena indicated that if he wins the 1994 elections his efforts will be directed toward "accomplishing political stability, probing into the democratization process leading toward the complete demilitarization of our system, and most of all fully applying the concept that the Armed Forces must be subject to the law and subordinate to civilian authority."

Other points he would emphasize include the full application of political liberties, particularly freedom of expression; the people's right to be well informed; and their right to receive answers to their questions.

Supreme Court Magistrate on Zona Rosa Killings

PA2805184493 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The Constitutional Division of the Supreme Court of Justice on 27 May issued a ruling requesting the personal appearance of Juan Antonio Lucero Morales or the other individuals involved in the so-called Zona Rosa killings.

Zoila Emerita Diez, secretary of the division, explained the procedure to be followed in this case, which is not covered by the general amnesty, which was approved by the Legislative Assembly after the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the Alfredo Cristiani government signed the peace agreements.

[Begin recording] [Diez] This case is at the Fifth Penal Court. Prior to this, a ruling had been issued with regard to the persons that were tried in a lower military court, including Juan Miguel Garcia Menendez, Jose Abram Dimas Aguilar, and William Celio Rivas Bolanos.

However, this ruling only covers Juan Antonio Lucero Morales, and points out that in the case of the military court, it was noted that the agreements that El Salvador has ratified are applicable, with regard to the protection of persons who are covered by international protection. That is the reason that the amnesty law has not covered him.

In this case, there was an attempt to apply the new amnesty law in favor of Jose [as heard] Antonio Lucero Morales. However, the same reason prevails because according to the Foreign Ministry, these persons are related.... [pauses] the minister sent his answer over to the judge in charge of this case at the Fifth Penal Court. He said these persons were internationally protected because they were accredited as Marine Guards.

[Reporter] In other words, the amnesty law cannot be applied?

[Diez] No, it cannot be applied in the case of Juan Antonio Lucero, who is undergoing trial. [end recording]

Now, the trial against Lucero Morales will return to the Fifth Penal Court that has conducted the procedure, while it awaits the appeals to be presented by his lawyers. Lucero Morales is charged with homicide against eight U.S. Marines.

CD Charges Death Squad Kidnapped, Tortured Member

PA2905042193 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The Democratic Convergence [CD] party charged on 25 May that one of its members was kidnapped and tortured by an alleged death squad. CD Deputy Jorge

Villacorta said heavily armed individuals carried out the operation in a style reminiscent of the past decade's wartime death squads.

Villacorta blamed the National Police and the National Intelligence Department, which has presumably been dissolved, remarking that they were the only state institutions that could carry out such actions. Here is what Villacorta said:

[Begin Villacorta recording] The method used is classic death squad, but the questions and the [word indistinct] are the same as those used in the past by the security forces, the National Police, and the Armed Forces intelligence apparatus.

Democratic Convergence, and I in particular, have been saying all along that President Cristiani has not fulfilled his commitment to dismantle the intelligence institutions. Instead of dismantling them he simply turned them over to the Army staff. We ask that those actions be investigated. No one can operate that way or conduct that type of interrogation unless he is linked to the state's security apparatus. [end recording]

Villacorta believes this is a government strategy to instill fear in the leftist political parties and diminish their participation in the coming general elections.

[Begin Villacorta recording] The sole objective of this action is to instill fear in the opposition and in the Salvadoran people once again so they do not participate in the electoral process. The National Republican Alliance thus guarantees itself a fraudulent victory through this new formula of repression and terror. It is a more selective way of carrying out their repressive actions but the results are the same: The people will not participate in the elections. [end recording]

Gregorio Mejia, who escaped from the kidnappers, explained how he was put into a vehicle with this hands tied and a hood over his head. Mejia showed burns on various parts of his body. Mejia said he was burned when he did not answer the questions. Here is what Mejia said:

[Begin recording] [Mejia] I was captured when I got off work and was waiting for the bus. There was a parked station wagon with two individuals presumably changing a tire [words indistinct] the front door opened and an individual came out pointing a machine gun at me. I tried to step back but somebody was behind me. They quickly pushed me inside the vehicle and proceeded to tie my hands behind my back and cover my head. After that we took off. I do not know where I was taken.

[Unidentified reporter] What questions were you asked?

[Mejia] They asked who my political mentors were. They asked me if I knew a person or a comrade from [word indistinct], if he had weapons in his farm. I replied that I knew nothing about it. They told me they knew he had [word indistinct] on the farm. I said I knew nothing about it. They asked us what plans, what activities, we had in mind if we did not win the 1994 elections. They also asked if we really thought we were going to win the 1994 elections. [end recording]

The CD urged President Cristiani to increase his efforts to investigate the death squad actions that continue to take place. Diverse sectors have reported finding bodies and violent actions in recent days as evidence of the persistence of repressive attitudes prevalent during the war.

Guatemala

Government Unaware of URNG Withdrawal

PA2805191893 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 28 May 93 p 3

[Report by Alberto Ramirez Espada]

[Text] Presidency Public Relations Secretary Arturo Alvarado stated that he did not know the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, had withdrawn from the peace negotiations as a result of the government's decision to suspend Congress, the Supreme Court of Justice, and the Judicial Branch.

Nevertheless, an URNG press communique sent to EL GRAFICO by facsimile states that the URNG will wait for Guatemalan society to return to constitutional normalcy before resuming the peace negotiations, the latest rounds of which seemed to be deadlocked.

The government has announced its decision and resolve to continue the dialogue because it insists that "the talks should continue with the same people and the same philosophy of reaching a peace agreement, the presidential spokesman added. [no closing quotation mark as received]

In its communique, the URNG urged all sectors of Guatemalan society to "defend their organizations and achieve democracy, justice, and peace."

To conclude, Alvarado reiterated that when the government is informed of the guerrilla command's decision to withdraw from the negotiations, the government will seek other mechanisms to continue the search for peace.

Police Confiscate Weapons From Former Officials

PA2805195893 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 28 May 93 p 3

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 May—The National Police confiscated weapons, ammunition, and other war materiel valued at 100,000 quetzales in a raid on the residences of Jose Lobo Dubon and Juan Jose Rodil Peralta, former presidents of Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice, respectively, police sources reported.

The sources added that weapons were also confiscated from former Deputy Obdulio Chinchilla Vega, who is hospitalized.

The police said in the three cases the weapons confiscated consisted of automatic firearms, the use of which is prohibited in Guatemala.

Confiscated with the weapons were ammunition and other military supplies used by the bodyguards of the three former government officials. Police also confiscated weapons from Chinchilla Vega's hospital security guards.

The origin of many of the weapons is being investigated to determine under what circumstances they were acquired.

National Police spokesmen noted that investigations concerning the possession of weapons and ammunition will continue until the case is clarified.

Text of Decree Appointing New Court Magistrates

PA2805195693 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 28 May 93 p 5

[Article by Edwin Palacios]

[Text] During a special event held on 27 May the new Supreme Court of Justice was installed. The new Supreme Court will be headed by Maria Luisa Beltranena de Padilla, who until last week, was Guatemala's education minister.

The new magistrates appointed by President Jorge Serrano Elias were sworn in by the president of the Republic. The members of the cabinet were present during the ceremony.

The following is the text of the Presidential Decree No. 2-93 by which the new magistrates were appointed:

The Constitutional president of the Republic, in use of his rights granted in Article 183, Paragraph 7, of the Constitution of the Republic and Article 4 of Government Decree No. 1-93 of 25 May 1993, decrees:

Article 1: To appoint Maria Luisa Beltranena de Padilla president of the Supreme Court of Justice.

Article 2: To appoint the following professionals as members of the Supreme Court of Justice:

Magistrate Member One: Jose Maria Moscoso Duarte

Magistrate Member Two: Roberto Eduardo Rivera Alvarea

Magistrate Member Three: Servio Tulio Aquino Barillas

Magistrate Member Four: Rodrigo Herrera Moya

Magistrate Member Five: Aura Astrid Morales de Morales

Magistrate Member Six: Juan Alfredo Marrio Martinez

Magistrate Member Seven: Bernardo Alfredo Lopez Estrada

Magistrate Member Eight: Josefina Chacon Vargas de Machado.

Following the reading of Decree 2-93, the president of the Republic swore in the new magistrates. The new president of the Supreme Court, Maria Luisa Beltranena de Padilla, who addressed the gathering, was sworn in separately.

Prior to the swearing-in ceremony, Guatemalan Vice President Gustavo Espina Salguero expressed his trust in the new magistrates, whom he described as very capable of administering justice in the country, which is the reason why they were appointed by President Jorge Serrano Elias.

Regarding a demonstration that was staged by Judicial Branch workers when preparations were underway for the swearing in of the magistrates, Espina Salguero said that they respect the position of the workers and expressed his hopes the situation would calm down in time.

Meanwhile, the president of the Republic expressed his trust in the new magistrates and offered to give them all the help that they need to ensure that things will work better than during the past administration.

Serrano Praises New Magistrates

PA2805195393 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 28 May 93 p 5

[Text] President Jorge Serrano Elias described the swearing in of the new Supreme Court magistrates as one of the most important public events in the country. Serrano said this after swearing in the professionals who will now be responsible for administering justice in the country.

"I am fulfilling one of the promises I made during my campaign," the president said. On 25 May President Serrano decided to dissolve Congress and the judicial courts in the country.

According to Serrano, the idea behind the measures is to offer the people of Guatemala a justice that will be equal for all, a justice that is not corrupt. Serrano asked the new magistrates to understand their enormous responsibilities.

During his speech, Serrano criticized the corrupt actions of the previous magistrates, who were headed by Juan Jose Rodil Peralta. Serrano described the conduct of the new magistrates as irreproachable, adding that the Supreme Court is now in good hands.

Soldiers, Police Reinforce Security

PA2805183693 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 28 May 93 p 3

[Text] Army units and other forces are patrolling the main streets and avenues of downtown Guatemala City

to prevent disturbances by labor and people's organizations protesting measures adopted by President Jorge Serrano.

Members of the armed institution were seen patrolling downtown Guatemala City conflict areas, such as Areas 6, 7, and 19, and neighborhoods where groups known as "Maras" [groups of youths involved in street disturbances] have operated.

Task forces made up of members of the National Police, Mobil Military Police, and Treasury Police patrolled the streets and avenues of downtown Guatemala City on foot. The largest concentration of police was noticed between Fourth and Ninth Avenues and Fifth and 18th Streets.

Police posted outside shopping centers were also seen searching the bags of people entering the shopping center, in addition to those of passersby.

In the afternoon, security was reinforced during a mass for peace outside the Metropolitan Cathedral that attracted members of people's, student's, and labor organizations.

Government 'Regrets' Suspension of U.S. Aid

PA2905192893 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 May 93 p 3

[Text] Arturo Alvarado, official spokesman for the Guatemalan Government, has stated: The government regrets the suspension of U.S. aid to Guatemala and hopes that other friendly countries do not do this.

He added: For our country all aid is necessary, and a suspension of aid is worrisome. He said he knows of the suspension of aid worth $25 million, including the DL-480 food program and rural road programs.

Alvarado said his government respects the U.S. Government's decisions and hopes that other countries contributing to national programs will maintain their assistance.

Communications Minister Alvaro Heredia said that he was in Venezuela last week and secured a $10 million loan. While in the United States, he had secured $31.5 million especially to work on roads like those between Escuintla, Antigua, and Chimaltenango and the Los Encuentros roads.

Heredia noted that the U.S. AID has a program to finance rural roads and that he has not received from the U.S. Government any notification of a suspension of aid.

Serrano Sends Letter to Clinton

PA2905014193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0037 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 May (NOTIMEX)—Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias reiterated in a letter sent to U.S. President William Clinton on 28 May his wish to restore constitutionality in Guatemala "as soon as possible."

Serrano Elias said in the letter that he can understand that the U.S. Government in a sovereign act has withdrawn the "modest" assistance it gives Guatemala. Regarding reports on the counternarcotics struggle, however, the Guatemalan president expressed amazement over the stand voiced by the U.S. Government, the text added.

The Guatemalan president said that Clinton's remarks on the counternarcotics struggle in Guatemala contradict those stated by former President George Bush, who on 6 April 1992 thanked Serrano for his cooperation in the counternarcotics struggle. Serrano Elias reminded Clinton that on 13 May he received a letter from the U.S. Government stating its views on the courage of his administration to extradite the principal drug trafficking leaders in Guatemala.

The Guatemalan president reiterated before the national and international community his desire to continue the counternarcotics struggle, despite the "inexplicable and unjust contradictions" contained in Clinton's letter.

Serrano Says No Date Set for Lifting Measures

PA2905031393 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0138 GMT 29 May 93

[By Emilio Crespo]

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 May (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano stated on 28 May that he does not know yet when he will lift the emergency measures, and that he does have the loyal support of the Army. Serrano spoke during a news conference in which the reporters bothered him with questions about his personal fortune and media censorship.

For nearly two hours, over 50 foreign journalists asked questions of the president, who once justified his self-inflicted coup staged on 25 May with the need for putting an end to corruption and the "process of destabilization" prevailing in the country. However, several journalists insisted they did not clearly see the reasons the president gave, and Serrano ended up not answering a question to this effect from a Mexican journalist.

Serrano was smiling and calm, and he appeared surprised when he was asked to explain the restrictions on the work of several foreign reporters. Finally, he assured that as of 28 May any censorship of the international media had been lifted, but he did not speculate on when the controls would be lifted from the national press that is subjected to self-censorship or the inspection by government officials.

Several European and U.S. correspondents harassed Serrano with questions about his personal fortune and the accusations of corruption that members of the dissolved national Congress have made against him. The president

said that he would submit himself to an investigation as any other citizen, and he denied having enriched himself illegally, or of owning a plane or a yacht.

Nevertheless, he admitted that he does own ranches, horses, and the luxurious vehicle that people say he owns, but he added these are a result of his business operations, some of which are shared with his partners, and some are from activities prior to his becoming president.

Serrano appeared before the media accompanied by nearly all of his ministers, and on two occasions, Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa—who appeared to be irritated—intervened to dismiss the statements made by former military and civilians on dissension within the Army and movements by young officers.

The Armed Forces support the president, he said, raising his voice. "There are no divisions within the Army, there are no junior or senior officers; only hierarchy prevails, and that is all."

Later, the general intervened again to assure that there are no military officers—except for himself—in important [government] positions. He also stated that the insecurity that prevails and the guerrillas force the Armed Forces to be active in the country, where, he assured, they have won the people's esteem.

Serrano insisted that he was forced to take the exceptional measures to end with the blackmail on his government by some justices and deputies, among whom he recognized he had personal enemies.

He also made reference to the pressure measures adopted by the international community in support of the return to democracy and considered them, above all, of a moral character. He said he doubted that these could have significant economic or commercial repercussion on his country.

Moreover, he appeared confident that the OAS mission to arrive on 29 May in the country, as well as the governments in general that have criticized his self-inflicted coup, understand the circumstances that forced him to make "the most painful decision of my life."

Serrano said: "I am a convinced democrat and I have no intentions of remaining in power once my mandate is over." Serrano also reiterated his disposition to call for elections for a constituent assembly once the Supreme Electoral Board approves this. This is the sole high ranking judicial institution that he did not dissolve.

A large part of his speech stressed the power drug trafficking has gained in his country, thanks to corruption and the justice system's inefficiency, which he had already started to reform. Serrano rejected U.S. President Bill Clinton's criticism regarding his struggle against drugs.

Serrano also made an extensive defense of the government's social programs and assured he does not feel he has failed, rather he feels satisfied when a Spanish reporter accused him of not having fulfilled goals such as the dialogue with the guerrillas or society's demilitarization.

New Human Rights Ombudsman Assumes Office

PA2905200793 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 May 93 p 3

[Text] On 28 May Maria Eugenia Morales Acena de Sierra assumed the office of human rights ombudsman, replacing Ramiro de Leon Carpio, who decided to suspend temporarily his duties and functions until constitutional order is reestablished, De Leon has said.

The magistrate stated in a document called "Historical Declaration:" "I am forced to make this decision, which will prevent me from earning a salary, as long as the ruptured constitutional order is not restored."

As human rights ombudsman, I seriously appeal to the president to reflect, to restore immediately constitutional order, and to abide by the Constitutional Court resolution. This body declared the unconstitutionality of the decree issued by the government." [no beginning quotation marks as published]

He added that because of the commitment he assumed before the people to defend, protect, and promote human rights, he has asked all officials and employees of the institution to continue working, despite the current circumstances.

De Leon Carpio has rejected every possibility to request political asylum because he is aware that he has been called on by the people to fight for human rights.

Assistants Deny Finance Officials' Resignation

PA2905211793 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 May 93 p 53

[Text] Finance Minister Richard Aitkenhead and Banco de Guatemala President Lizardo Sosa have neither resigned nor been removed, their respective assistants have stated.

Rumors of Aitkenhead's and Sosa Lopez' possible resignations have intensified over the past few hours. Both public officials have been credited with Guatemala's current economic "boom".

They both are reported to have actively participated in the 26 May Monetary Board session to evaluate the impact on the country of President Serrano Elias' institutional changes.

Resignation rumors have intensified as a result of Aitkenhead's and Sosa's decision to keep a low profile. Neither of the two high government officials have been seen in public since 26 May.

It was also quite obvious that Aitkenhead was the only state minister who did not attended new Supreme Court of Justice oath of office ceremony or any other official event where the presence of the full cabinet is required.

The secretaries of both finance officials said the resignation and removal rumors are false. They said the officials have been unable to speak to the media as they have constantly been in meetings away from their offices.

Protest Staged During OAS Visit

PA2905223293 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2028 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Guatemala, 29 May (ACAN-EFE)—Reporters and university students in Guatemala staged a peaceful protest against President Jorge Serrano on 29 May while an OAS observer mission headed by Secretary General Joao Baena Soares began its visit to the country.

Several reporters claimed during a news conference at the U.S. Embassy that they are victims of persecution and have received death threats.

Journalist organizations sent a commission to explain their problems to the OAS delegation that arrived in the country to study the situation after the self-inflicted coup. The OAS delegation will present a report during a foreign ministers meeting scheduled for 3 June in Washington to study the Guatemalan case.

The OAS mission is made up by Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and foreign ministers Ernesto Leal from Nicaragua, Maurice King from Barbados, and Sergio Abreu from Uruguay.

Meanwhile, representatives from the governments of the other five Central American nations arrived in Guatemala at Serrano's invitation so he could explain personally what has happened in the country.

Panamanian delegate Lucas Zarak, president of the Legislative Assembly, told ACAN-EFE that they had accepted the presidential invitation and would listen to Serrano's explanation but that they would also accept any dialogue proposed by the opposition.

Zarak and Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria, the Salvadoran envoy, told ACAN-EFE that their governments support the restoration of constitutional order in Guatemala.

Baena Soares said the purpose of the mission is to study the situation in Guatemala and talk with the government, the political opposition, and the civic organizations. The mission must present a report at the meeting of American foreign ministers, which will examine Guatemala's case in Washington on 3 June.

The 29 May people's protest, which is the third of its kind since Serrano carried out the self-inflicted coup, took place in front of the Guatemalan cathedral a few meters away from the Presidential Palace after approximately 1,000 people participated in a mass to beseech the country to return to constitutional order.

Guatemala Archbishop Prospero Penados del Barrios officiated the religious ceremony and called for peace and a return to democratic legality.

At the U.S. Embassy, Guatemalan reporters who work for several media sources also called for the return to a constitutional government and the restoration of civil rights.

Several reporters revealed that there have been problems at their offices due to the government's censorship and harassment. The government suspended more than 40 articles of the Constitution, including freedom of expression.

Spokesmen for the Council to Defend the Rights of Journalists, a body that unites media union organizations, charged during the 29 May demonstration that two groups of 12 and 25 media specialists have received death threats and been persecuted since the state of emergency went into effect.

The journalists said the U.S. Embassy has offered them protection but that they will try not to ask for asylum or go into exile for the time being.

The 29 May demonstration was the third public event against Serrano. The president was repudiated at another mass in the cathedral on 27 May and during a street demonstration in front of the Supreme Court, whose magistrates have been replaced by President Serrano.

Political Groups Meet, Favor Dialogue

PA3005030693 Paris AFP in Spanish 0201 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, May 29 (AFP)—Guatemalan opposition sectors continued to meet on 29 May in open defiance of the government's ban on meetings, political sources reported. The political forces are studying the situation created by President Serrano's self-inflicted coup when he dissolved Congress and the Supreme Court on 25 May.

Deputy Catalina Soberanis confirmed that the Christian Democratic Party and other political parties are "permanently studying the situation" and that the meetings could create a common front to attain a rapid return to constitutional normalcy.

The Democratic Socialist Party (PSD), which was part of Serrano's government up to 25 May, issued a document condemning the self-inflicted coup and recommending that the country take the road of "transition to democracy."

The PSD added that the institutional disruption "has had immediate negative effects" that will soon result in economic problems.

According to Soberanis, the parties are in favor of "calling a dialogue" to find a solution to the crisis, but so

far the politicians have not decided on a strategy to present the proposal to President Serrano.

Serrano met with several foreign ambassadors on 28 May to explain the reasons that led him to suspend constitutional guarantees, including freedom of assembly and expression.

According to a diplomatic source, Serrano also talked about "a call to dialogue," which could mean that the political parties have already initiated contacts with the head of state.

The media continues to be censured and citizens know very little about events in their areas.

The grass-roots and union organizations that call themselves the "Common Front Against the Dictatorship" have held meetings in several locations to discuss the situation.

The economic effect of the self-inflicted coup is already being felt in several areas. The price of the dollar increased from 5.50 to 5.80 quetzales, and according to several merchants polled in the Guatemala City market, the demand for basic products has diminished.

Based on recurring testimonies, it seems the population is in general agreement about the situation: Almost nobody says he is in favor of Serrano, but very few want the Congress to be reinstated because it is believed to be the most corrupt state institution.

One market vendor stated: "It is a pity they are all corrupt, from the president to the deputies, and even in the private sector."

Electoral Tribunal Refuses To Call Elections

PA3005025593 Paris AFP in Spanish 0229 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Guatemala, 29 May (AFP)—The Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) reported on 29 May that they have rejected the possibility of calling elections for a constituent assembly in Guatemala as requested by President Jorge Serrano as they believe the measure would be "unconstitutional."

TSE President Arturo Herbruger said "we told the president that it is impossible to hold elections as he proposes without the Constitution being in full standing."

Labor, Student Groups' Telephone Lines Cut

PA3005173293 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 30 May 93 p 6

[Text] Telephone lines of the different labor and student organizations were suddenly cut off, probably to prevent them from calling abroad, the Labor and Popular Action Union (UASP) has charged.

The labor union leadership met in hiding with the purpose of planning actions aimed at protesting the decision made by the head of state, who broke the constitutional order.

The UASP spokesman expressed concern about the situation facing national and international media because of the suspension of freedom of thought.

Chief Justice of Dissolved High Court Leaves Country

PA3005173993 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 30 May 93 p 3

[Text] Juan Jose Rodil Peralta, the chief justice of the dissolved Supreme Court of Justice, left the country by air on 29 May for an unknown destination using his diplomatic passport. The lawyer was able to leave the country after consultations with immigration officers, who finally allowed him to leave without further impediment.

Minister Says Police 'Will Gradually Withdraw'

PA3005184193 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 30 May 93 p 4

[Text] Government Minister Francisco Perdomo stated the police will remain in the streets for as long as necessary to provide security to the people, who are recovering confidence in the authorities, adding that the contingent will gradually withdraw.

Perdomo stressed the measure was necessary, as there is more confidence in the streets where violence recently prevailed.

Perdomo said the members of the Union of Judicial Branch Employees who were recently arrested during demonstrations were released the same day they were arrested.

Asked about the tear gas used by the security forces on the demonstrators, Perdomo replied he is not minister of the police forces, and that in any event, that question should be addressed to the police director.

Regarding the suspension of U.S. aid to Guatemala, Perdomo said "the equipment for the police is already in Customs, but a change in the equipment is not what we need, but a change in our mentality, and that we should all contribute to make Guatemala a society with peace and security."

Serrano Denies Ordering Arrest of Journalists

PA3005184593 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 30 May 93 p 3

[Text] President Jorge Antonio Serrano Elias told this newspaper on 29 May that it is totally false that orders have been issued to arrest journalists Mario Castro and Raul Meono, members of the PRENSA LIBRE staff.

Castro holds the post of news chief and Meono is chief of the photography subsection.

President Serrano added that the government has no intention of acting against any member of PRENSA LIBRE's personnel and that therefore, the journalists can undertake their normal tasks.

On the afternoon of 28 May there were constant rumors that Castro and Meono would be arrested at any moment by security forces. In view that constitutional guarantees are currently suspended, our colleagues decided to take precautionary measures until the truth of the rumor was verified. At no time did they request political asylum at any embassy, nor did they leave the country, as was subsequently rumored.

Raul Meono and Mario Castro continue to carry out their daily routine.

Journalist Council Communique Demands End to Censorship

PA3105035093 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 30 May 93 p 7

[Text] Article 35, first paragraph of the Guatemalan Constitution states that freedom of expression is a legitimate right that cannot be curtailed by any law or regulation, a press communique issued by the National Council for the Defense of Journalistic Rights states.

The communique adds that "freedom of expression is a fundamental human right, the foundation of democracy, a right that is guaranteed in Article 46 of our Constitution, in the 10 December 1948 UN General Assembly Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in treaties and conventions signed by Guatemala, which should prevail over the country's internal laws."

The communique adds:

"According to the rights that are inherent to human beings as guaranteed in the country s Constitution, social interests should prevail over individual interests. Any government law or decree that diminishes, restricts, or distorts the rights guaranteed by the Constitution should be rightfully annulled."

The communique states that the provisions in the decrees on the government's temporary norms contained in Article 1 maintain the validity of the country's Constitution as well as the laws and other provisions in force in the country and in Article 7 agree to respect conventions, treaties, and international agreements currently in effect, which include man's fundamental right to freedom of expression.

The National Council for the Defense of Journalistic Rights therefore agrees:

1. Based on constitutional norms, treaties, conventions, and international agreements ratified by Guatemala, it rejects the temporary suspension of Article 35, the right to freedom of expression, because it is inadmissible and because respect for that right should prevail over the country's internal law. The activities conducted by the media are of public interest and cannot be suspended under any circumstances.

2. To demand from President Jorge Serrano Elias the immediate return to a constitutional and legal state, reversing the points in which he overstepped his authority, because those points lack national and international legal support. Article 183 of the Constitution outlines the president's tasks and orders under Subparagraph A, which states that he must obey and enforce the Constitution and laws. The Constitution's transitory Article 21 determines that the basic law does not lose validity or effect despite temporary interruptions caused by extenuating circumstances.

3. Shutting down newspapers and radio and television stations is not the way to adhere to the country's Constitution. The Constitution was violently interrupted at democracy's expense; a democracy that is the result of efforts by Guatemalans and a heritage for future generations. As Guatemalans we cannot accept these actions and must condemn events that destabilize the Guatemalan state. We demand that the people's right to information be reinstated. We demand an end to the persecution and harassment of journalists. We demand an end to censorship so the muzzle can be removed as soon as possible.

4. To call on all the country's media—radio and television stations, newspapers, and any other medium—not to accept the government censors that are operating by a de facto decree.

5. To demand that the international community, specifically the international press federations—FIP [expansion unknown], the Latin American Journalists Federation of Reporters, the Inter- American Press Association, the Committee for the Protection of Reporters of New York, Canada, and Europe, and the United Nations—to express solidarity with the Guatemalan media and people during these difficult times and not to allow atrocities against a country that urgently needs to continue the democratic process it began in 1986.

[signed] On behalf of the National Council for the Defense of Journalistic Rights:

Association of Guatemalan Journalists

Guatemalan Chamber of Journalism

Union of Parliamentary Chroniclers [Union de Cronistas Parlamentarios—UCP]

Guatemalan Sports Chroniclers [Cronistas Deportivos Guatemaltecos—CDG]

National Press Circle

Guatemalan Association of Women Reporters and Writers

Departmental Journalists' Cooperative [Cooperativa de Periodistas Departamentales]

Foreign Press Club

Independent Journalists

Reporters of the Main Sources of News

Governor Clarifies Restrictions on Meetings

PA3005174093 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 30 May 93 p 3

[Text] Guatemala Departmental Governor Francisco Luis Gordillo Martínez on 29 May told this newspaper that there are no restrictions on religious, family, social, and cultural meetings.

The only restriction, he added, refers to political meetings or those which could cause agitation and public disorder.

The governor said this official information seeks to clear up misunderstandings and instruct the people on what is and is not permitted.

Serrano Gives National Address, Announces Proposal

PA3005062393 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0330 GMT 30 May 93

["National address" by President Jorge Serrano on 30 May; place not given—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ... we now have the obligation of looking to the future.

A few days ago at a moment I consider to be one of the most difficult times in my life, I addressed you to tell you I was assuming the historic responsibility of making a great, profound, and difficult decision for my country. At that time I also told you I was doing it with faith, optimism, and the belief that those difficult resolutions and decisions were meant to bolster the cleansing we need in our country and the modernization of the Guatemalan state.

We cannot continue to live in an outmoded structure, nor can we under any circumstances continue to tolerate the vices that have afflicted us all.

Over these past days we have received many demonstrations of solidarity with the change we carried out in the Supreme Court of Justice. Many lawyers and individuals related to the country's judicial branch have told us that they feel like the hope for justice has been born again. We will not let the Guatemalan people down. The day I swore in the new Supreme Court magistrates, I said: You are all magistrates who have proved your honesty and decency through crystal clear lives. We want to forget the past. We do not want to see any more of the blackmail and the things that humiliated our country and which have made the international community point at us as people who tolerate impunity.

I am absolutely certain that message was understood by the Guatemalan people and will be accepted by all those decent judges and magistrates who have the duty of raising the torch of justice to make it shine equally on all Guatemalans.

Today I told them: You Supreme Court magistrates, magistrates of the appeals courts, and judges will have state protection. I ask you to reject bribes and help us draft new legislation that will make it possible for us to punish those who try to adulterate and corrupt justice.

That is part of our commitment. That is something that is inherent in this problem we have confronted but which we are now beginning to solve.

We do not want to see any more criminals going into jail and leaving immediately. We have long lists of people who have dedicated themselves to harassing the population, people who have dedicated themselves to stealing cars, people who are dedicated to the most abominable activity in our country, drug trafficking, persons who are dedicated to institutional crime and whom we have not been able to reach because the arm of the law was a little broken.

However, I believe in Guatemalans. I believe in you judges and magistrates. I trust that you will know how to respond to this challenge given to us by the people: to make a different Guatemala and quench the people's thirst for justice, but with corruption and integrity. [sentence as heard]

On this path you will always meet a friend, someone who is willing to support you under any circumstances. Let us create a totally different judicial branch.

Laws do not make a country; men who apply the laws make a country. You who have the virtue of being trained lawyers know how much corruption and arrogance existed, especially at the upper echelons of that organization. We have gotten rid of it. Let us go forward with optimism.

We also have to make decisions about the Congress of the Republic because it represents the people of Guatemala. Congress is where the deputies who supposedly represent the people of Guatemala live and watch over the interests of the people. They, however, are not there for demagogic or business purposes.

I admit that among the deputies who lost their positions, there are honest men and women who deserve all my respect and admiration for their righteousness and who could have been hurt because they were true representatives of the people. Unfortunately, corruption had reached such levels in that organization that it was impossible to move in favor of national objectives or respond to the needs of the people or the concerns of each and every Guatemalan in the country because corruption had corroded [words indistinct.]

We now have a responsibility before history. We must quickly install a new Congress that will never again allow laws to be made through coercion, bribes, or unworthy actions. The law has to be inspired solely by the common good and the right that Guatemalans have to live freely and healthily in society.

We want an Attorney General's Office that really works. We never want events such as those that have occurred recently to happen again. We do not want an attorney general who worked hard to fight corruption to be taken to court, disqualified, and the Attorney General's Office left without a head. This should never again happen in our country because if we [words indistinct] the autonomy and authority of those who are obliged to watch over justice, we will be killing justice. What is worse, we would be killing the hope of a nation that wants justice.

We must confront the drug trafficking threat as a country. It has not been shy about dropping money in many Guatemalan circles. Its goal is to destabilize, discredit, sink, tarnish, and create anarchy that will allow them to do whatever they want. Guatemala must develop a legal system. We must especially work to develop the consciences of our citizens so we can stop these activities that have morally impoverished us and have taken a tremendous negative toll in our society.

I want to tell you that I am alarmed to see that drug trafficking and drug use in our country has increased more than 150 percent in one year. This is not possible. It is something Guatemalans should not tolerate. Guatemalans have to become aware that every time a Guatemalan youth succumbs to drugs, we are possibly losing a brilliant mind. In any case, we are [words indistinct] the future of our nation.

The action we took this week was an entirely civilian action to purge Guatemalan civilian society. The military had no part in this as they were simply and plainly informed that they had to perform their duties to protect public order. We have begun to attack the problem of corruption and the levels of [words indistinct]. This is not a military problem. This is a problem of we civilians who through our passivity helped a culture of corruption such as the one we have had in the country and that all of must decide to change.

I want to tell you it saddens me to see some civilians trying now to incite the military to participate in an action for which they hold no responsibility. The problem we are facing is political. Our responsibility is to resolve it politically among civilians. The Constitution compels us to accept those challenges and resolve them ourselves.

I want tell you that the military society underwent a rather drastic purge over the past two years. We have been able to restore order there. Over 50 officers were either discharged or remanded to the courts for various reasons. Over 400 specialists and over 1,800 soldiers have met the same fate. I can attest that the Army, which it is my duty to head, is loyal, disciplined, and has accepted the historic challenge that has fallen upon it. Civilian society needs to be purged as well. Civilian society also needs to be put in order. Civilian society also needs to accept its responsibility to the nation. I think we have faced these problems with great responsibility and historic standing over the past few days.

I want to tell you, however, that today I am satisfied. I am satisfied because passions are now beginning to calm down in the country, and all the political and social sectors have been able to establish a preliminary dialogue. We have been able to hold some consultations that allow me to make a solemn proposal to the people of Guatemala, a proposal that will enable us to return to institutional order, but to be sure, by creating the mechanisms that will give us guarantees [two-second break in reception] that give us the guarantee we can create and develop a modern country and a modern state structure.

With that vision, and requesting national unity so we can momentarily set aside partisan and sectarian views, all Guatemalans must look forward with the hope of rebuilding our nation on solid legal, moral, and ethical grounds; a duty to which all of us without exception must contribute.

I will now allow myself to read this proposal, which I have thought about over and over, for the whole Guatemalan nation so all sectors—social, political and cultural—can understand that we need the cooperation of all Guatemalans to make Guatemala what we have all dreamt it should be.

We all live in this country and it is the only country we have. Even if we are very different, we must learn to live in peace, concord, and harmony. This includes all those who live within legal norms and even those Guatemalan brothers who are outside them; those who have taken up arms and whom I once again invite to start thinking of their reintegration at this historic moment for the reconstruction of our beloved Guatemala.

My proposal to the Guatemalan people reads as follows:

The constitutional president of the Republic of Guatemala, reaffirming that the measures adopted were motivated by the need to quell a situation of anarchy, corruption, and impunity that jeopardized the democratic government system by making the country impossible to rule; aware of the fact that it is necessary to reform the Constitution in order to guarantee the standing of a state of law and to perfect and strengthen the democratic institutions so the authority of the law may not be broken and so respect for human rights and individual liberties are fully guaranteed; and convinced of the urgent need for drafting and approving through popular consultation the said constitutional reforms and the transitory measures that will allow a prompt normalization of the constitutional and institutional life; promises the Guatemalan people to implement the following procedure for the normalization of the constitutional and institutional path. The president hereby asks the

political parties and the representatives of the nation's civilian sectors for their participation so that in the shortest possible time not only democratic institutionalism is normalized but so we also perfect our own democratic government system through the strengthening of the Constitutional order.

Proposed procedure: Procedure for the normalization of the constitutional and institutional path.

1. The Government of the Republic, consulting with political parties and other civilian sectors of the country, shall draft a constitutional reform and transitory government norms bill.

2. These reforms and transitory norms shall be subjected to the people's approval through a popular consultation that will be held within a maximum of 90 days.

3. The transitory norms in this draft bill will include the election of a Congress that shall carry out legislative duties from its installation until the end of the current presidential term on 14 January 1996 and will consider any other disposition that may allow a prompt transition to institutional normalcy in accordance with the reformed Constitution.

4. The constitutional reforms will be aimed at perfecting our democracy and strengthening the structure, independence, and autonomy of the government organizations and institutions with the possibility of considering autonomy for the organizations and institutions that currently have it, as well as for the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and the Comptroller General's Office, which are essential institutions for eradicating corruption and impunity.

The [word indistinct] and privileges of public officials must also be eliminated or severely restricted. Signed: Jorge Serrano Elias.

As you can see, we are inviting all political and social sectors to work together on this constitutional bill or on these constitutional amendments. I want to tell you that this proposal is not the brainchild of Jorge Serrano Elias. It is the result of lengthy consultations with many national leaders. We managed to reduce it to just the major guidelines for consensus. Guatemala, my dear Guatemalan brothers, today more than ever before needs everyone's effort. We must all contribute our grain of sand to find solutions and to draft a short yet functional constitution that guarantees Guatemalans their rights and, most importantly, serves to protect institutions and propel us toward the future in a modern way. The challenge is in our hands. As the constitutional president, I now want to invite formally all those institutions, organizations, and persons of goodwill who are interested in a better Guatemala to send us their contributions, their thoughts and ideas about what a modern Guatemala should be. May we draft constitutional amendments that reflect the aspirations and needs of the people of Guatemala. May God help us, keep us, give us courage, and put us on the course we have always desired. Thank you.

Proposes Dialogue, Referendum in 90 Days

PA3005042393 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0400 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 May (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano on 29 May proposed to the opposition that a national dialogue be opened and a referendum held within 90 days to reform the Constitution and restore democracy.

Serrano made his proposal in a radio and television address to the nation shortly after meeting with the OAS mission headed by Secretary General Joao Baena Soares.

The new plan of the president, who on 25 May staged a self-inflicted coup and dissolved the legislative and judicial branches, was already known among the political parties, and none of them had accepted it.

Tribunal Rejects Referendum Until Rights Restored

PA3005142893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0914 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 May (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) on the night of 29 May rejected President Jorge Serrano Elias' proposal to hold a referendum in which the people could approve or disapprove the current government system.

Nine TSE magistrates met in a special session on 29 May to analyze the plan the president presented to them on 26 May after the TSE refused to call for constituent assembly elections.

Sources close to the TSE confirmed to NOTIMEX that the magistrates decided "not to accept the president's proposal until the people's civil rights are reestablished." Civil rights were suspended on 25 May.

Meanwhile, sources close to the president indicated that as of 2100 (0300 GMT on 30 May), the president had not received the notification from the TSE.

On 31 May, the TSE will issue an official report on the rejection of the presidential initiative on the popular consultation in view that "legislative power and freedom of action, assembly, demonstration, and to strike are not guaranteed."

A source close to TSE President Arturo Herbruger said "it is impossible to call a referendum with a censored press and without the Supreme Court of Justice, the Constitutional Court, and the Congress."

"There must be full guarantees and Guatemalans' rights must be restored," added the source, who asked to remain unidentified.

On 26 May, Serrano Elias went to the TSE to request the holding of constituent assembly elections within 60 days. The TSE rejected the president's proposal because it considered that there would not be enough time to hold the elections in view that the preparations would require at least four months due to lack of personnel.

The TSE's rejection came while an OAS mission led by Joao Baena Soares was meeting with Serrano. The mission has held intense meetings to issue an opinion on the events in Guatemala.

The president is working hard to achieve a "national pact" that will permit him to reestablish constitutional order, broken on 25 May with the dissolution of government branches, a source close to the president said.

Indian Activist Menchu Calls For Civil Disobedience

PA3005195193 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1814 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 May (ACAN-EFE)—Rigoberta Menchu, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992, has issued a call for peaceful "civil disobedience" to reject President Jorge Serrano's "dictatorship."

Menchu, who headed the fourth protest at the capital's main square since Serrano's self-inflicted coup on 25 May, told ACAN-EFE that the people cannot remain silent because that would be like "legitimizing" the president's measures.

The Guatemalan indian activist told her followers who gathered at the square where the Government Palace is located: "It is time to go to the streets to express our rejection of the self-inflicted coup in which the Army was involved."

Menchu rejected Serrano's proposal to hold a "great national dialogue" among all the civilian sectors, political parties, and even the guerrillas to begin talks that will bring about a return to democratic institutionality.

"No appeal from the president is valid until democracy is restored," she added, "because he now heads a de facto regime, a dictatorship that civilian society rejects."

"The president only wants to apply cosmetic measures. He seeks a less painful way out for him and the Army," she stressed.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner said she also opposes a countercoup d'etat by the Army, as opposition political leaders have requested. She said this "would deepen the crisis, bring chaos to the country, and have negative consequences for the poorest people."

Menchu, a UN goodwill ambassador, announced that if the situation does not change in Guatemala, she will cancel her participation in the human rights summit to be held in Vienna in mid-June.

"We must break the silence so we will be part of a democratic nation," the Guatemalan activist said. She stayed at the central square with other indian leaders and members of popular organizations for approximately four hours.

Church Demands Return to Constitutional Order

PA3005234293 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1938 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Episcopal Conference of Guatemala on 30 May demanded a return to institutional order and the Constitution to pave the road for a national dialogue and to end President Jorge Serrano's self-inflicted coup.

In a document read in all Catholic churches throughout the country, the Guatemalan bishops expressed their concern over "the trampling of the democratic process" and regret that corruption, impunity, and administrative inability have served as a basis for Serrano to suspend the Constitution and dissolve the legislative and judicial branches.

The document cautioned: International isolation, the suspension of aid from friendly nations, and the closure of Guatemala's markets will lead to increased poverty and will bring more hunger and misery to the vast majority of the Guatemalan people.

The Episcopal Conference feared that merciless repression, stern state control, and unpunished human rights violations could again become the norm in Guatemala.

As a first step the document proposed a return to institutional order and the full prevalence of the Constitution. Then the door to a national dialogue, debate, or consultation must be opened in an atmosphere of true freedom, mutual respect, and with the representation of all the country's ethnic, social, political, and economic sectors, the document added.

The bishops said that to achieve that goal the government must establish and guarantee certain indispensable conditions. They added the dialogue could be convoked by the universities of Guatemala.

As a third step, the Episcopal Conference proposeed that once the Constitution is reestablished and the dialogue takes place, a referendum could be held to allow the people to endorse the conclusions of the national dialogue.

The Episcopal Conference's proposal is similar to that of President Serrano, who on 29 May proposed to the political parties and to all other sectors a grand dialogue for the purpose of drafting a constitutional reforms bill. That proposal has already been rejected by the invited groups, which have described it as "illegal."

The Episcopal Conference's document does not call for the resignation of the president, as certain political leaders and Human Rights Ombudsman Ramiro de Leon Carpio have done.

The bishops explained that the church's document expresses a moral rather than political position in the face of the situation Guatemala is experiencing following the 25 May self-inflicted coup.

In referring to the criticism Serrano has endured for breaking institutional order in Guatemala, the Episcopal Conference document stated: "It pains us to see our fatherland being again repudiated internationally, because this will bring more suffering to our people."

Opposition Rejects Dialogue, Warns of 'Countercoup'

PA3005220093 Paris AFP in Spanish 2057 GMT 30 May 93

[Report by Arturo Gudino]

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 30 May (AFP)—Diverse opposition groups in Guatemala demanded on 30 May that President Jorge Serrano resign, warning that if he does not "a military countercoup" is imminent in that Central American country. [passage omitted]

OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, who arrived in Guatemala City on 29 May, resumed an intense round of talks with political, economic, and social sectors to draft a report for the foreign ministers meeting to be held on 3 June in Washington to analyze the Guatemalan situation.

Jose Lobo Dubon, president of the dissolved Congress, who has been accused by Serrano of corruption and blackmail, said Serrano should be tried after he resigns "because he has committed crimes against the Constitution." [passage omitted]

The opposition's reaction came on the heels of President Serrano's 29 May proposal to hold a dialogue to analyze the constitutional reforms required by the country, which would be submitted to referendum. The opposition rejected that proposal.

Human Rights Ombudsman Ramiro De Leon Carpio [title as received] appealed to the OAS to impose severe sanctions on the Guatemalan president if he "does not heed the citizens' call" that he relinquish power.

De Leon said such sanctions could include recalling ambassadors and cutting off oil supplies from Mexico and Venezuela.

Most nations on the continent have repudiated Serrano's coup, and even the United States and the European Community announced the suspension of economic aid to Guatemala this week

"This week could be either tragic or very positive for Guatemala and for democracy in Latin America," De Leon remarked, noting that if circumstances warrant he will head a demonstration to the government palace to demand Serrano's ouster.

Generals Meet With Visiting OAS Delegation

PA3005224493 Paris AFP in Spanish 2119 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 May (AFP)—Five Guatemalan generals, including Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia, met on 30 May with the OAS mission investigating President Jorge Serrano's self-inflicted coup.

According to OAS sources, the other generals participating in the meeting are Francisco Ortega Menaldo, chief of the Presidential Staff; Otto Perez Molina, chief of the D-2 Intelligence Service; Mario Enriquez, military representative at the currently suspended peace negotiations with the guerrillas; and Roberto Perussina, Army chief of staff.

The meeting took place amid persistent rumors that President Serrano is losing support among the military as the political situation deteriorates following the Supreme Electoral Tribunal's refusal to convoke constituent elections.

Serrano suffered another setback on 30 May when the Catholic Church stated its opposition to the coup decreed by Serrano on 25 May. Indian leader Rigoberta Menchu, the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner, has urged the Guatemalan people to wage a peaceful resistance against Serrano's self-inflicted coup.

Congress Offers Amnesty Provided Serrano Resigns

PA3005231093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2151 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 May (NOTIMEX)—The dissolved Guatemalan legislature on 30 May offered President Jorge Serrano Elias "political amnesty" and a promise that he will not be held accountable in exchange for his resignation.

Fernando Lobo Dubon, president of the Congress that Serrano dissolved on 25 May, and 62 opposition party legislators said they are willing to waive a political trial only if the president abandons his post.

Lobo Dubon said shortly after meeting with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares that Serrano Elias' resignation would prevent "trauma in the country."

The Guatemalan president on 25 May ordered constitutional guarantees suspended and the legislative and judicial branches dissolved in what was called a "constitutional coup."

Lobo Dubon said legislators have already "paved the way for Serrano Elias to leave the country" through coordinated efforts "with a diplomatic mission in Guatemala," which was not identified.

The legislators said elections need to be called soon to elect a new president, vice president, Supreme Court justices, Constitutional Court justices, as well as congressmen.

"We are at the decisive moment when plenty of proposals are generated, but Serrano Elias is not gaining strength. On the contrary, he is becoming weaker. It is therefore urgent that a state of law be restored," Lobo Dubon said.

Generals Deny Urging Serrano To Resign

PA3005232893 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2202 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 May (ACAN-EFE)—Two members of the Guatemalan military high command denied on 30 May that they had asked President Jorge Serrano Elias to resign as has been done by practically all the country's political and civilian sectors.

After meeting with the OAS mission visiting Guatemala, Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa and four other high-ranking officers denied rumors of the resignation request. Gen. Garcia Samayoa is the only general who has publicly expressed his support for Serrano.

The defense minister declared that "the civilian sectors must decide because the situation is in their hands."

He added that the Armed Forces must "be on guard in order to prevent the situation from becoming a social explosion."

Garcia Samayoa agreed that the Armed Forces' role is "to maintain equilibrium and stability in the nation" and to search for reconciliation mechanisms that will allow "a prompt return to constitutionality as soon as possible."

The minister also referred, although ambiguously, to the need to initiate a dialogue with the country's political and social sectors and to listen to all proposals, including the president's, in order to provide "an adequate answer that will benefit society."

Samayoa and four other leading generals on 30 May met with the OAS mission that arrived in Guatemala on 29 May. The mission is made up of OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal, and Barbadian Foreign Minister Maurice King.

Gen. Francisco Ortega Menalco, chief of the Presidential Staff, who is considered one of the countries most powerful men, told ACAN- EFE after the meeting that the president's resignation "is a political decision" and pointed out that "is has not been made yet."

In addition to Garcia Samayoa and Ortega Menalco, the military delegation that met with the OAS delegation included Division General Roberto Perussina and Brigadier General Mario Henriquez, chief and deputy chief of the General Staff of National Defense, respectively, and Military Intelligence Chief Gen. Otto Perez Molina.

The OAS mission met with representatives of numerous Guatemalan political and social forces on 29 and 30 May. The mission is expected to present a report before the 3 June foreign ministers meeting in Washington that will evaluate Guatemala's situation.

Political parties, businesses, unions, and civic organizations and individuals such as Nobel Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu and Human Rights Ombudsman Ramiro De Leon Carpio called for Serrano's resignation today. They also rejected his offer to initiate a national dialogue and hold a referendum to legitimize the self inflicted coup.

Serrano Addresses Nation on Current Situation

PA3105051593 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0410 GMT 31 May 93

[Speech by President Jorge Serrano Elias; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] I am glad to address you again. I want to say that we have received positive replies to the proposals you learned about on 29 May. That proposal was not a definite one but has many possible variations. I want to tell you that I am pleased at the resolve shown by the country's various political and social groups that have begun to give us ideas that we are willing to accept and discuss.

I am also pleased to tell you that some of the international replies to the resolve we have shown to engage in a dialogue have begun to reduce the current tense climate. I want to tell you that I trust that Guatemalans will solve this problem. I want to tell you that we are going to solve it with security, with stability, and with the confidence the Guatemalan people require.

It has come to my attention that, taking advantage of this instability, some people have begun speculating with prices or with the currency exchange. I want to ask all Guatemalans to have faith. We will rapidly find a way to reinstate order. We will also find a way to do the necessary cleansing and find the road to modernizing the state, which are the fundamental goals that move all groups that have adopted one stance or another over these past few days.

We also want to tell you that on 30 May we began reviewing the basic elements within the central government to see where we can start making some cutbacks and begin an austerity program; a demand we will make of the entire executive branch.

I want to tell you that on 30 May I decided to eliminate the position of the secretariat of personal affairs of the Presidency, the secretariat of parliamentary affairs, and

the presidential spokesman in order to set an example. I believe we need to reduce institutionalism. The country needs certain austerity measures.

I want to tell you that I am happy with reports I have received in the past few days and today about security in the country. As far as stolen vehicles go, there have been days when not one single vehicle was stolen and days when only two or three stolen vehicles were reported. That is very much in contrast with past reports of 30 or 40 stolen vehicles per day.

It is also interesting to report that emergency situations resulting from assaults and street violence have been reduced by more than 50 percent. That means the country can live in order. I ask the citizens to cooperate to maintain this situation of order and security that all Guatemalans want and that can be achieved. That has been demonstrated in the past few days.

We, together with the security forces, with the combined forces, will continue to offer security to the people, but all Guatemalans should realize that it is better to live in a climate without tension and in a secure atmosphere than in the climate of uncertainty and insecurity we had a few weeks ago.

I also want to tell you that today we successfully sought and captured three criminal bands. One of the bands operated in Antigua, Guatemala where we captured six of its members. It was the band of pirates. We seized weapons and other objects. That band was dedicated to stealing goods in transport. We also captured a band of three members called the Three Aces. We seized three knives. That band attacked restaurants and similar places. We also captured three drug traffickers and we seized cash, vehicles, and cocaine from them.

I think Guatemala is finding its path. I am working. Government teams are working. We are intensifying contacts and dialogues with various national and international groups. I believe that the good spirit that is already prevailing in Guatemala will soon lead to a solution that will return normalcy and institutionality to the country.

Thank you very much. God bless you. Good night.

Defense Minister Garcia on Situation

PA3105060493 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0440 GMT 31 May 93

[Interview with Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa by unidentified reporter after a meeting with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares; place and date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Garcia] At this point we have only analyzed the situation. The various political, social, and cultural sectors must hold talks.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Garcia] I prefer to avoid making statements that are not backed by clear agreements about what the situation is and what position will be adopted. I have come here to exchange ideas with the OAS secretary general. We are going to wait until there is a clear position. As I have said, the president made a political decision. The Armed Forces' position is to maintain stability and equilibrium in the nation and to seek mechanisms that can lead to solutions and a very prompt return to institutionality and constitutionality.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Garcia] Immediately. The political sectors must make the decisions because they are in control of this situation. We just oversee matters so they do not turn into a social explosion with unforeseeable consequences.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] illegal?

[Garcia] I do not want to characterize any situation but to assume the responsibility that the situation requires. This is not the time for issuing casual or whimsical opinions. I think it is a situation that requires profound analyses to see how we can find a solution.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Garcia] It is a situation that must be evaluated. We have to work hard and with great care.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] what role do you have?

[Garcia] Our role is established in the Constitution. The Constitution prevails; it has just experienced a mishap. We have a clear position.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] That is the Court's opinion.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Garcia] That we return to constitutionality and institutionality as soon as possible.

[Reporter] What is the most viable way of returning to constitutionality?

[Garcia] We have to talk about that. Our advice deals with state security, which we must discuss with the president, his cabinet, and his political advisers. We have to state our point of view.

[Reporter] With the civilians?

[Garcia] It is up to the president to make that decision. I am just a minister. I am not the government or the cabinet.

[Reporter] You have given total support to all the president's policies.

[Garcia] There are clear concepts that we must calmly and carefully discuss. We should not give casual opinions. I do not know if I am explaining myself. I cannot tell you more.

[Reporter] Political sectors have spoken against the president's plans, and the Armed Forces is the only sector supporting him.

[Garcia] I think we have to listen to proposals from all sectors, including the president's proposal, study them, and then give a more educated answer that takes into consideration all the situations that benefit society, the people, and the nation. That is our point of view.

[Reporter] How long do you think [words indistinct]?

[Garcia] We would like to see it as soon as possible. I think there are mechanisms that can make the situation viable.

[Reporter] If the Constitutional Court declares all the activities of the chief of state invalid and dismisses him, the Army would not have to obey Mr. Serrano. What do you have to say about that?

[Garcia] We must study the matter carefully to see if it falls within the legal concept and to see what position we should adopt in that case. But...

[Reporter, interrupting] What if they give you their support?

[Garcia] Let me see how the situation really stands so I can give you an adequate reply.

[Reporter] How would you describe the situation in the country?

[Garcia] Right now we have a controlled calm, both in the countryside and the capital. There are no outbreaks of violence of any kind. I think that to the extent that the measures the government has taken are clarified, the people will have more confidence. There will be more security in what happens from now on. I believe that this type of meeting will show us the path and the solutions that we can suggest.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Outlines OAS Mission

PA3105142193 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 May 93

[Interview with Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu, member of the OAS delegation studying the Guatemalan problem in Guatemala, by unidentified reporter in Santa Fe de Bogota—live via telephone]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning, what is the situation in Guatemala?

[Abreu] We have been working since the evening of 29 May. We have been talking with various political and social sectors, including meeting with the Armed Forces, in an effort to seek a solution to the institutional and constitutional problem of the republic of....[pauses] let me see....[pauses]

[Reporter, interrupting] Of Guatemala.

[Abreu, continuing] ....Where we are trying to find a solution for its institutional problem.

[Reporter] Yes.

[Abreu] As you may understand, it is 0600 [1200 GMT] [reporter chuckles] and we are making an effort to coordinate ideas to answer these questions to the extent that we have been working very hard. We went to bed at approximately 0100 after a long day of meeting with more than 100 people of various groups.

[Reporter] Of course, Mr. Foreign Minister.

[Abreu] In Guatemala, the situation is very difficult. A coup d'etat was staged here. Our task and objective is to try to put this country back on the constitutional track so that it can return to democratic life.

[Reporter] We feel bad about bothering you at this time. We know that you have been busy with this situation until the early hours of the morning and we are just waking you up to get your views. Please tell us, is it true that President Jorge Serrano Elias is about to fall?

[Abreu] I cannot say something like that. This is a matter that revolves around a political decision. All groups and sectors can assume weaker or stronger positions, but the most important thing is to handle this situation with discretion and calm. Above all, solutions must be proposed to permit a recovery of democratic institutions. I cannot make an analysis, but I can tell you that the OAS delegation and the OAS secretary general have been working very hard, frankly, and openly. We have explained our position without beating around the bush. Based on this, there should be no concessions that affect democratic institutions.

[Reporter] Mr. Foreign Minister....

[Abreu, interrupting] There will not be any mediation. It will be only an analysis of the situation. Proposals will be made and we will listen to all sectors as to what they feel are the institutional solutions that are advisable.

[Reporter] There are two key parts in this conflict: President Serrano and the military. Have you talked to them recently? Do you plan to talk to them, and if so, when?

[Abreu] We did talk with the military. We talked with a delegation they sent on 30 May. The members of this delegation visited us at the hotel where we are working. We began a round of talks with the president and with his top authorities. Later on, we met with the various social and political groups—including all the parties—that are representative in this country. We also talked with Rigoberta Menchu, religious groups, and episcopal

groups. In other words, we have left no one who is concerned with this matter out of these talks. We are saying clearly that the OAS will not accept a coup d'etat or an interruption in the democratic process. This is also the position of the Uruguayan foreign minister and that of his country. The OAS has a clear and defined position. The OAS Permanent Council sent us here is to state clearly that there is no possibility that the OAS will validate political systems other than those with democratic institutions and full political freedoms.

Papers Resume Circulation, Publish Blank Pages

PA3105171293 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1456 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 31 May (ACAN-EFE)—With the exception of PRENSA LIBRE, the other two Guatemalan morning newspapers circulated on 31 May with black and white pages, in view of the censorship imposed by the government following Jorge Serrano's 25 May self-inflicted coup.

SIGLO VEINTIUNO [21st CENTURY], which began circulating again on 31 May, changed its name to SIGLO CATORCE [14th CENTURY]. In its front page, printed in black, the newspaper states that silence is the second power in the world after the word.

"Obscurantism," a deplorable and nefarious phase in the history of man which prevented progress and development of the peoples of the world, ended at the end of the 14th century and preceded the economic, political, cultural, and social emergence of the Western world, the newspaper stressed in its front page.

The national news section and editorial pages were blank, as well as the international section dedicated to Guatemala.

Meanwhile, EL GRAFICO, owned by opposition political leader Jorge Carpio, which has been circulating since 28 May, only carries the blank editorial page.

PRENSA LIBRE, the first newspaper to hit the stands on 27 May, two days after the break in the institutional order, did not carry any censored pages.

Carlos Gonzalez, chief editor of the evening daily LA HORA, told ACAN-EFE that the newspaper will be published again on 31 May without censorship.

Oscar Granados, president of the National Council for the Defense of Journalists' Rights asked OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares for support in preventing Serrano from reducing and modifying the law on freedom of expression, and to end the censorship on the media.

According to Granados, the harassment of the press campaign began when Serrano assumed power in January 1991.

Granados, who heads the organization representing all of the Guatemalan press associations, demanded the elimination of censorship and self-censorship, as well as the total reinstatement of Article 35 of the Constitution, which deals with freedom of expression.

President Reportedly Heading for Airport

PA3105204593 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2008 GMT 31 May 93

[Telephone interview with Nadina Lefevre, former Honduran ambassador to Guatemala, by unidentified correspondent; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [Correspondent]...Can you confirm this report?

[Lefevre] I have just contacted Guatemala, and I was just told that the Guatemalan president is resigning and is leaving for the airport to go abroad. This is a last minute report.

You know I was the Honduran ambassador to Guatemala, and I always have direct contacts there. Guatemala is my second fatherland, and I am always attentive to any news from Guatemala.

[Correspondent] Let us continue with this important information. How did you obtain this information?

[Lefevre] I got this report from Oscar Marroquin Rojas, director of LA HORA newspaper. He told me directly that President Jorge Serrano Elias is resigning right now. There has been a great deal of international pressure, and this morning LA HORA newspaper was published without censorship in defiance of the authorities. Riot police tried to stop the newspaper from circulating. However, Rigoberta Menchu showed up and headed a demonstration that started at LA HORA newspaper. All the newspaper boys began distributing the first newspapers published without censorship. It was open defiance of a dictatorship and a head of state who was repudiated by all the forces.

[Correspondent] According to the information you have, where is Serrano Elias going?

[Lefevre] It is still unknown. The report is so recent that at this moment, President Serrano is speaking in Guatemala. He has not finished speaking yet. But it is already known that after his speech he will be leaving for the airport.

[Correspondent] Do you know who will replace him?

[Lefevre] We still do not have the report. It would be deplorable if the Army would have to seize power. The vice president's resignation is also being requested. However, if you have no objection, I will be informing you in half an hour.

[Correspondent] What else were you told about the Guatemalan situation?

[Lefevre] Oscar Marroquin said that everything is calm. Everyone is listening to the resignation. The people's pressure and lack of Army support for the president was noticeable today. Thus, he is resigning today.

[Correspondent] Thanks for your call, and we will wait for your call in the next few minutes.

Journalists Reportedly Seek Asylum at U.S. Embassy

PA3105193493 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City—After Jorge Serrano's government said that the press was cooperating with the censorship, two local journalists, who were being persecuted by soldiers, had to request asylum at the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala, according to last-minute reports.

The reports say that Mario Castro and Raul Neono of PRENSA LIBRE were persecuted by armed men who maintain strict vigilance in the buildings where the newspapers offices are located.

Meanwhile, Lee McLenny, the U.S. Press Attache in Guatemala City, offered protection to Castro, PRENSA LIBRE's chief editor, and to Neono, chief photographer, as well as to the rest of journalists who work for that newspaper, whose lives could be in danger.

Human Rights Ombudsman Office Closed 'Indefinitely'

PA3105195493 Paris AFP in Spanish 1833 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 31 May (AFP)—Ramiro De Leon Carpio, the human rights ombudsman who suspended himself from office, has reported that his office was closed "indefinitely" on 31 May and will not be opened until constitutionality is restored. He made the announcement together with his assistants, including Maria Eugenia de Sierra, who assumed office as head of the Human Rights Ombudsman Office last week. De Leon Carpio explained: "We cannot continue working and endangering the lives of our personnel." For this reason, it was agreed not to resume work "until the country has return to institutionality and the Constitution is fully restored." President Jorge Serrano announced on 25 May the suspension of the human rights ombudsman but later he changed his mind and reinstated him. However, De Leon Carpio refused to work with what he termed "a virtual de facto government."

OAS Mission Makes Statement Upon Concluding Visit

PA3105232593 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 2100 GMT 31 May 93

[Statement by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu in Guatemala City on 31 May—live or recorded]

[Text] [Baena Soares] I wish to make a statement to mark the conclusion of our mission. Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu is here with me. We fulfilled our mission. We wish to take this opportunity to thank the media and all the people with whom we have spoken. As you all know, we had a full schedule and we now have a report that is fairly complete. I wish to state that the details and conclusion of the report will be shown, first of all, to the foreign ministers who sent us on this mission. I can add that we hope the resolutions approved by the organization will be favorable for Guatemala. We hope institutional democracy will return to the country shortly. I am convinced that we will be able to carry out our important task. The foreign ministers will be meeting in June and they will study the report submitted by the foreign ministers who headed this mission.

I will now invite Foreign Minister Abreu to address you.

[Abreu] Gentlemen, we have fulfilled our mission, the mission given us by the OAS. We also have abided by the resolution of the OAS Permanent Council and have urged the prompt reinstatement of democracy and constitutionality in Guatemala. We have spoken with all the delegations, with all the sectors that represent the people of Guatemala. We will submit our report and state our position, which is the same position we brought with us to Guatemala. It is important the Constitution and institutions be reinstated in Guatemala and that freedom and democracy prevail.

[Baena Soares] I would like to ask something of my friends in the media: You are doing a great job and I know that you wanted something more. However, you must understand that you have your responsibilities and we have ours. It is quite normal for this mission, which assumed the responsibility of presenting a report, to do so before the authorities that assigned them this task, in other words, the members of the OAS. That is our first responsibility, and Foreign Minister Abreu and the other foreign ministers, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal and Barbadian Foreign Minister Maurice King, share this view with me.

Once again, thank you.

Serrano Meeting With Military, Civilians in Presidency

PA3105222693 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 2120 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias, ranking officers of the military high command, and representatives of the country's national, economic, social, and political sectors have been meeting at the Presidency since the morning of 31 May. The meeting has been going on for more than four hours, but there has been no indication of what is being discussed. The government minister, who had been at the meeting, said many representatives from the country's various sectors

are participating. We will keep abreast of any resolution that may come from this meeting and will keep you informed.

Radio Cites Communique Denying Serrano's Resignation

PA3105231093 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 2235 GMT 31 May 93

[Report from the Presidential House]

[Text] President Jorge Serrano Elias has not resigned, a communique released by the Presidency Public Relations Secretariat states. On the contrary, he is convinced that only with the actions he has undertaken will Guatemala be able to consolidate its democracy. He continues to conduct efforts so thousands of fellow citizens who have not had access to development in the past may have it now. Therefore, this report denies a report aired by a Honduran radio station that President Serrano had resigned on the morning of 31 May. The report caused some confusion in some Central American countries. The communique by the Presidency Public Relations Secretariat totally denies that report. The president of the Republic continues to hold office in the presidential office, where he received many reporters and held working meetings with state ministers and secretaries general on 31 May.

The president's activities have increased over the past few hours as a result of his determination to initiate a series of reforms in the state mechanisms, which range from an austerity program to the elimination of the posts of secretariat of legislative affairs, secretariat of personal affairs, and presidential spokesperson, which is currently held by Fernando Muniz. In addition to meeting with his cabinet ministers, the president has received representatives of political and popular organizations who have gone to the Presidency to propose actions deemed prudent from their viewpoint to integrate the state purge process, which began early this week, the Public Relations Secretariat communique states.

Several dozen reporters, both national and international, are surrounding the presidential palace waiting for any resolution the government may issue this afternoon or any statement by persons who are attending the working meeting with President Serrano.

Human Rights Ombudsman on OAS Delegation's Visit

PA0106041093 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 31 May 93 p 3

[Text] Human Rights Ombudsman Ramiro de Leon Carpio received the OAS delegation and told them: "The president restricted the Constitution without consulting all of the military commanders. That is extremely dangerous and could lead to a countercoup because the institution is split."

OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, accompanied by Barbadian Foreign Minister Morris King and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal, visited De Leon Carpio to ask him about the country's recent events.

De Leon Carpio held a news conference after the meeting and said he told the OAS delegation "what has happened, what will happen, and the outrages perpetrated against me. I established my position in relation to an authoritarian government that has taken upon itself an illegal responsibility."

He said: "President Serrano made wrong decisions and felt cornered when he was unable to control the electric energy rate increase, the Congress, and corruption at all levels."

He pointed out: "The president made this decision without telling all of the commanders of the Army, an institution that guarantees obedience to the law."

He added: "In view of the rejection by the international community and all the local sectors, the only proper constitutional measure is for the president and the vice president to step down and accede to a political trial."

De Leon Carpio later told the delegates he is constantly receiving death threats telling him to leave the country, but said: "I will not leave or seek political asylum. I will struggle with all the means at my disposal to restore the country's constitutionality and institutionality."

"Restoring constitutionality is difficult because the population has repudiated the Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice. It is possible to restore normalcy, however, through the resignations of the president and the vice president under constitutional procedures," he said.

De Leon Carpio added that he is in no way supporting or suggesting a coup, but that "the Armed Forces are not obeying the law because they are not enforcing the Constitution."

He also said he told the OAS delegation about the outrageous measures against the press. "We have had authoritarian governments in the past, but such indescribable abuses had never before occurred. This makes the situation even more difficult."

The OAS delegation, he said, noted the situation and will take their report to Washington.

De Leon Carpio added: "I am asking the president and vice president to step down before it is too late. The majority of the population is telling the president and vice president that they are creating chaos in the country."

"It might be possible to reinstate a purged Congress with measures that are within the constitutional framework. The president has put us in a difficult situation."

The illegal acquisition of wealth charges against the president must be investigated, he added.

Finally, he said there could be a national agreement provided the business sector and the Army sit down and talk.

Daily Protests Censorship, Files Petition

PA0106043193 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 31 May 93 p 2

[Text] SIGLO VEINTIUNO filed a petition for amparo against President Jorge Serrano Elias on 28 May at the Constitutional Court. The petition charges that the president has subjected the newspaper to censorship, thus violating the rights to freedom of action and expression ensured and guaranteed in Articles 5 and 35, Paragraph 1, and Articles 44 and 46 of the Constitution; Article 1 of the Freedom of Expression Law; and Article 13, Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of the Human Rights Convention.

In its petition the plaintiff requests that the petition for amparo be accepted, that the aforementioned government rulings be repealed, that its legal status be reinstated immediately, that Serrano's orders be revoked, and that he be ordered to pay damages to the plaintiff as well as all legal expenses incurred.

According to the respective law, the Amparo Tribunal must accept the petition of amparo, order or reject the temporary suspension of the aforementioned presidential orders, request that the president report on his actions within a 48-hour period, and order that a hearing be held at the Prosecutor General's Office.

SIGLO VEINTIUNO decided on 31 May to change its name temporarily to SIGLO CATORCE, the last period of obscurantism, as a sign of protest in light of the censorship and rigid police siege to which it has been subjected.

Likewise, in the first issue under Jorge Antonio Serrano's de facto regime, SIGLO VEINTIUNO's news and editorial pages will be painfully blank in an obvious demonstration of our categorical rejection of the trampling of our constitutional and institutional order, our freedom of expression, and most important, the rights of the Guatemalan people to be informed.

We ask our friends and readers for their tolerance, understanding, and patience.

President Serrano Gives National Address

PA0106020993 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0105 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Address to the nation by President Jorge Serrano Elias on 31 May in Guatemala City—live or recorded]

[Text] Guatemalan people: We have come with the vice president and defense minister to address you, because today there has been a series of rumors and disinformation that is totally removed from the truth and that could endanger the tranquillity we have maintained in the country.

All Guatemalans bear witness to the fact that the government has functioned normally and that the business, industrial, and agricultural sectors are operating normally. All the people are moving about the country without problems. We understand that Guatemala is totally alienated from all of this disinformation. As we have begun to make some allowances in the guarantees—the press has full benefit of those allowances—we begin to see that some misuse has been made of them, which is causing confusion. This is totally unnecessary and it could disrupt the climate of tranquillity and peace.

We made many efforts on 31 May to speak with different economic, political, and social sectors of the country. We have found that we share points of agreement with these sectors that will allow us to find a solution to the existing situation. On 31 May we had a long talk with the members of the OAS mission headed by Ambassador Joao Baena Soares. The orientation of the recommendations was that the international community is expecting a constitutional solution to the situation. We are seeking such a solution. At no moment have we attempted to disregard the Constitution. We are ready to continue to seek solutions that will permit us to resolve the situation we face.

There was speculation on the morning of 31 May that the Army was taking a position in that regard. That is absolutely and totally false. We are facing this problem with tranquillity. It is an entirely political problem, as we have repeatedly said. Such a problem must be resolved politically.

I want to tell you that we are working arduously toward this end, with the hope that we will soon have a solution to the problem. I hope the solution will serve all Guatemalans to build the country we have all dreamed of: free, devoid of corruption, and above all, modern. May God bless you and thank you very much.

'Unidentified Individuals' Strafe Televisa Building

PA0106035493 Paris AFP in Spanish 0319 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 31 May (AFP)—Mexican Televisa television network correspondents reported that unidentified individuals strafed the Televisa offices in Guatemalan City with machine guns on the evening of 31 May. The building's windows were destroyed but no injuries were reported.

Guatemalan journalist Galo Antonioti of Televisa's Global Communication Enterprise [ECO] newscast commented that it was an "intimidation tactic to make the situation even worse." Antonioti declined to blame any particular person or institution.

The ECO network has accused Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano's government of jamming ECO satellite broadcasts to Mexico City.

Serrano Condemns Attack

PA0106044893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0421 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 31 May (NOTIMEX)—Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano and the Foreign Press Club have condemned a 31 May attack against the office of the Mexican private television network ECO [Global Communication Enterprise] in Guatemala City.

A source close to Serrano has reported that the president condemned the attack tonight during a meeting with cabinet members and that Serrano has asked Government Minister Francisco Perdomo to investigate the shooting.

According to a fire department report, several unidentified individuals armed with machine guns and riding in a vehicle fired on the ECO offices in Zone 4 of Guatemala City. The attack caused damage but no casualties.

They seek to promote chaos and create a climate of unrest to destabilize President Serrano's government, the source stated.

Spokespersons for the Foreign Press Club and Circle for the Defense of Journalists agreed in saying that the attack is part of a plan by unidentified forces to silence the press.

The attack against ECO occurred in spite of tight security measures established by the Army in the Guatemalan capital after President Serrano staged a constitutional coup and dissolved the legislative and judicial branches on 25 May.

Honduras

Callejas Holds News Conference on Guatemala

PA3105231993 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1902 GMT 31 May 93

[News conference by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas with unidentified correspondents at the Presidential Building on 31 May; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Callejas]...As everyone knows, a few days ago we sent a working group to Guatemala made up of representatives of each of the Central American presidents to assess the country's political climate and talk with the various sectors. That working group has already left Guatemala and is in El Salvador today. The presidents of Costa Rica and El Salvador and I have confirmed attendance at a meeting to be held this afternoon or tomorrow morning to try to find a legal, institutional, and constitutional solution to Guatemala's sad situation. I hope that all of the presidents will be present. The meeting intends to reinforce the OAS resolutions on what we regard as the necessary response to the Guatemalan problem. As Central American presidents, we feel it is our duty to help the Guatemalan people find a solution within our responsibilities as friendly troubleshooters. The meeting, then, would primarily be to receive information from the personal delegates of each of the presidents who went to Guatemala. Once we have that information we would take the actions we feel are best for Guatemala and Central America.

[Correspondent] We would like you to confirm that you are leaving for El Salvador at 1300. In addition, should the situation in Guatemala remain conflictive? Could the area presidents' joint statement, which was reported last week, be modified?

[Callejas] The trip basically depends on timing and on whether the Costa Rican president can arrive today or tomorrow. I think the meeting could be held tomorrow. I understand some of the Honduran opposition's demands, but I think we are running in circles regarding the Central American presidents' statement. The wording of the statement is typical of Latin American foreign ministries' statements for many years. In its communique to all countries, the OAS statement says, quote, we deplore, unquote. Our statement is much more emphatic in saying we lament this sad Guatemalan situation. The statement has been made. The foreign ministers met in Jamaica. We are still trying to help create a climate that would make it possible to attain solutions in Guatemala. Our position in Central America is one of consensus. That is what we have agreed upon. That is what the Central American foreign ministers agreed on, and that is the area countries' stance as indicated by the joint statement.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, Costa Rican President Calderon Fournier said last week he is willing to attend the June presidential summit if is held in a country other than Guatemala. Would you take a stance similar to President Calderon Fournier's to protest Serrano's actions? Can Central America expect a stronger response from the area presidents in the coming El Salvador meeting?

[Callejas] As for your first question, I would say it is necessary to wait for developments before making a decision. I feel confident that a constitutional resolution will have been issued by that date. Should that prove to be the case, we could decide to hold the meeting at the proposed host country. Otherwise, we would have to reconsider the situation and discuss it at some other time. As for your second question, I reiterate what I have already said. I think the Central American statement represents our just concern over Guatemala's crisis. We will work to help find a satisfactory constitutional solution for Guatemala.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, will this El Salvador meeting be attended by all of the area presidents, (?including) Violeta Chamorro?

[Callejas] Right now, the information I have regarding Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani and Costa Rican President Calderon Fournier, with whom I have been in constant contact, is that Cristiani, Calderon Fournier,

and I will attend the meeting. Every one of the area presidents, including those of Nicaragua and Panama, have been invited, but neither Nicaragua nor Panama have confirmed their attendance for a number of reasons, such as that they do not have the time, there were not good communications, and so forth. The working group to assess the Guatemalan situation includes Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal. I do not know the Panamanian delegate's name, but all of us are participating. We hope the Nicaraguan and Panamanian presidents can attend the El Salvador meeting, but it has not yet been confirmed.

[Correspondent] As president, what can you say about the Guatemalan situation?

[Callejas] I cannot intervene in another country's internal affairs.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the words deplore and lament were used by the OAS. Why did the OAS not use the word condemn instead of lament?

[Callejas] This is normal diplomatic language. It makes no difference to me. Maybe we want to make such a distinction for reasons of the opposition. The truth, however, is that the five countries reached an agreement on the words to be used. Some wanted to sound strong and others not. Consequently, the foreign ministers reached an agreement. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] President Callejas, Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network on 31 May reported that your government will not present U.S. Ambassador Crescencio Arcos with the medal usually awarded to ambassadors, particularly to U.S. ambassadors. The radio station reported that some guidelines will be changed to ensure that the medal is not awarded. Are there differences between Ambassador Arcos and the Armed Forces?

[Callejas] Those are all rumors. As soon as the foreign minister presents the decree, we will award him the Morazan Order, which Ambassador Arcos deserves. We have excellent relations with Ambassador Arcos. Crescencio Arcos has a very important and special quality. Because of his Latin origin, he is very much like us. I believe he sometimes likes to participate in national debates. A new and good ambassador will be coming to Honduras shortly, Ambassador Price. He is quite different. He is an Anglo-Saxon, and you will see, as in the past, the difference for various reasons. In this sense, Crescencio Arcos has had a real presence in our country. We have very good relations. I do not agree with many of the things he has said or the way they have been interpreted because I believe at times he has overstepped his position in our country. The fact is that he receives instructions from the State Department. Currently, the State Department—U.S. foreign policy, that is—is strong on two main issues: corruption and human rights. They are going to insist on those two subjects. Every ambassador who comes to the country will, in general or specific terms, broach those two subjects. It is the current U.S. Administration's policy in light of the situation affecting not only Latin America but also the entire world. Scandals of this nature are seen all over the world. I believe the U.S. position is good. Human rights must be respected and the battle against corruption must be waged in order for democracy to be strengthened.

I believe Ambassador Arcos is a man who has contributed to and enriched our national debate. Because of his personality there are some people who agree with him and others who do not. However, no one can deny that he has served his country well. He has also been a friend to Honduras. You may remember that thanks to the help of the U.S. Government, my government was able to get a bridge loan to cover our past due payments with international organizations and to qualify for loans again. That bridge loan also allowed us to reach an agreement with the IMF, and that led to $454 million...[pauses] $434 million in debt being written off. Ambassador Arcos was an important player in the negotiations. I reiterate, Ambassador Arcos is very much like us. He likes to be around the media; there is nothing wrong with that. There may be some who do not see it my way, but in Honduras we have been lucky and we have ample freedom of expression. I believe the people see Crescencio Arcos' presence as natural, just as the government does. I repeat: There are some things upon which we have disagreed, and when that happened we made him aware of it, either publicly or privately. Therefore, from my viewpoint, Crescencio Arcos has culminated a period in his diplomatic life. He did that very well. Honduras has received a great deal of support from the United States. There may be things that we do not like to hear, but it is State Department policy and we are going to continue hearing them until the day those problems are solved.

If it has been our custom to present the former U.S. ambassadors with the order, I do not know if it has been our custom, then we will present him with the award.

Callejas Rejects Comparisons to Guatemala's Serrano

PA2905184993 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 27 May 93 p 2

[Report by Gustavo Palencia]

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Rafael Leonardo Callejas rejected the possibility of a "Rafaelazo" taking place in Honduras similar to the one pulled off in Guatemala by Jorge Serrano Elias, who took over absolute power in that country.

"I have listened with complete displeasure to the totally irresponsible statements by the Liberal Party, Honduran Christian Democratic Party, and the Social Democratic Innovation and Unity Party [PINU-SD] presidential candidates, who have expressed their concern that Honduras could follow Serrano's example," the president stated.

Callejas was reacting to the apprehension expressed by the opposition presidential candidates that events similar to those occurring in Guatemala could also take place in Honduras.

"I believe those concerns are inconsistent with reality, immoral according to political terms, in view of the fact that they know my position and democratic convictions quite well."

The president stated that "to try to create a rift in Honduran society concerning such important issues in hopes of obtaining short-term benefits means that these persons are really lacking political information as to what this nation's democracy is all about."

"I publicly call on Carlos Roberto Reina, Orlando Iriarte, and Olban Valladares to ensure that their statements reflect the genuine need to develop the country, and not to tarnish it by attributing to me the most unimaginable convictions."

The president added: "Statements have been made, also by the PINU candidate, that I have not made such a decision because I have not had sufficient time. That is unreal, unnecessary, irresponsible, and completely unjustified."

I call on the Honduran people not to let themselves be misled by short-term trends that are supposed to represent alternatives that will lead the nation to the future," Callejas said.

Discua Comments on Guatemalan Events, Armed Forces Role

PA2805234493 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 May 93

[Interview with General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, commander in chief of the Honduran Army, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [Discua] We must do everything to uphold democracy. I have always said that democracy must be maintained, and we must support whoever is elected by the people. Therefore I believe that we must all work toward strengthening democracy in Central America.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the president has already said that he will not allow the Constitution to be violated.

[Discua] I do not know about that. I believe the purpose of the meeting was misinterpreted. I would like to tell you that the meeting between the Senior Council of the Armed Forces and our commander in chief was specifically to analyze the situation, and other internal issues concerning the Armed Forces.

[Reporter] Some sectors have described your brothers statements as very flippant. I am referring to your brother trying to justify the soldiers' use of force against the Chinese citizens who rebelled in the [word indistinct] by saying that they fired because they feared the Chinese karate expertise.

[Discua] What has really occurred is that we had a group of desperate persons who refused to return to their country of origin. They had not received asylum in Honduras or in any other country. Therefore, I believe the incidents broke out as a result of desperation which prompted them to behave irrationally. It was very difficult having to confront them.

[Reporter] Gen. Discua, is there any truth to reports that the situation in Guatemala is being evaluated very carefully, most of all when the Honduran Armed Forces has been under severe criticism at home? Would you, at any specific moment, support any decision by the president to take similar measures in Honduras?

[Discua] I want to say first of all that we are all staunch supporters of the country's constitution. The president of the republic has already referred to this situation on several occasions. I believe it would be highly irresponsible on our part or any person to refer to the issue. I am sure that the president is a person who respects the constitution, and his political beliefs are very straightforward.

[Reporter] General Discua, considering the possibility for violence to break out in Guatemala, what contribution could the Central American governments provide in order for the situation not to deteriorate and extend to other countries in the area?

[Discua] Well, I believe the Central American presidents have already adopted their opinions with respect to the situation, and most likely have already adopted a joint measure. It would be more appropriate to wait for their decision on the issue to be made public.

[Reporter] Gen. Discua, according to international observers, President Serrano could not have made such a decision without the Armed Forces' support. I imagine that in a certain way, such a situation is beginning to make everyone wonder if the Central American armies could also be planning to violate established constitutional order sometime in the future. Historically speaking, how are you committed? What is the Armed Forces thinking now when an army has supported a break in the established constitutional order?

[Discua] First of all, I would like to speak for the Honduran Armed Forces because it is the institution I represent. I would like to say that we are constitutionalists. We respect the country's Constitution. We respect the people's decision when voting to elect a person to occupy the presidency. Therefore, I do not believe that the same will happen here. The Honduran Armed Forces are clear as to their role. We are constitutionalists and we are going to support democracy.

[Reporter] Would the Honduran Armed Forces censure the Guatemalan Armed Forces conduct as has been done by the other Latin American presidents?

[Discua] Please allow me to say that I would not like to venture an opinion on this issue since they have their reasons, and their internal policies. It has never been my habit to interpret or censure other countries conduct.

[Reporter] However, do you not believe that if violence breaks out in Guatemala it could undermine Honduras' stability?

[Discua] Whenever there is violence in neighboring countries such as El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, it is expected that there will be some repercussions here since we are in a geographical position that one way or another makes us vulnerable.

[Reporter] What do you think of the crack down on corruption, and the idleness by some institutions such as the Legislative and Judicial Branch?

[Discua] As I said before, those are aspects that must be handled carefully. The president has taken the most appropriate steps. He established an investigation commission and therefore they are doing their job.

[Reporter] General, is there any truth behind the rumors that you had a stroke which has pleased some of your adversaries within the Armed Forces?

[Discua] No, no, that is false. I have never had any stroke. There is no truth behind those rumors.

Nicaragua

National Assembly Condemns Guatemala Coup

PA2805150993 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 27 May 93

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The National Assembly condemned the self-inflicted coup in Guatemala during its plenary session on 27 May. Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta appeared at the assembly session. This station has learned that Minister Mendieta met with a special assembly commission appointed to investigate the events involving the Santa Rosa weapons cache. President Violeta Chamorro also addressed the Santa Rosa case.

In its statement, the National Assembly strongly condemned the self-inflicted coup in Guatemala.

[Assembly Secretary Frank Duarte] "We hereby encourage the Central American Parliament [Parlacen] nations to transfer the seat of this important forum to another country. The alteration of juridical and institutional order in Guatemala, caused by the dissolution of the Congress, does not offer adequate security for Parlacen to carry out its work in favor of the integration the Central American nations are working to achieve."

The statement was approved by 48 votes in favor and 24 abstentions, which were cast by the National Opposition Union [UNO] legislators. When Minister of Government Alfredo Mendieta appeared before the plenum, the UNO deputies left the assembly hall.

[Mendieta] "I regret the absence of the UNO representatives very much because we might have been able to clarify whatever doubts they have."

Describing the progress in the life and job guarantee program, he said that the crime rate in Esteli has dropped by 80 percent since the program went into effect.

[Mendieta] "The latest report we have, which is from 1700 [2200 GMT] on 25 May, states that about 627 units assigned to these areas had been deployed to the security zones in San Jeronimo, Pita del Carmen, El Dorado, Laulo, San Pedro Del Norte, and Quisaura. That is approximately 50 percent of the men assigned to the program."

He stated, however, that there has been resistance in Tungawara, where the National Salvation Democratic Front 380 refused to negotiate with the government. After the report, Minister Mendieta met with the members of a special assembly commission, presided over by UNO Deputy Edmundo Castillo, appointed to investigate the events at the Santa Rosa weapons cache. While this transpired at the Assembly, President Violeta Chamorro expressed her disapproval for what occurred at the Santa Rosa shop and said that the guilty parties will be punished.

[Chamorro] "There is a criminal hand in the Santa Rosa case. There are several criminal hands. God willing, we will find out who they are as soon as possible. The owner or owners who set up that terrible thing, which was not just a simple cache, or whatever it is called. [sentence as heard] There were several there that almost blew up all of Nicaragua. I mean to say, this was terrible thing, and there are reports of others. I want to take advantage of this opportunity with you, my media friends, to ask the people of Nicaragua, to ask the police, to ask everyone: If you know where there is an arsenal hidden, report the owners of these places and have their house searched. This is getting absurd. The war is over."

The government minister gave the deputies a detailed report of the investigations and invited them to visit the regions where the life and job guarantee program is in effect.

Several deputies commented that the absence of the UNO bench during Mendieta's speech was because of differences with the National Assembly Board of Directors.

Gen Ortega Blames Former Salvadoran Rebels for Explosion

PA3105171893 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Army Commander General Humberto Ortega Saavedra blamed the leaders of the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces, FPL, for the explosion of an arms cache that they clandestinely constructed in the Santa Rosa neighborhood in Managua.

Gen. Ortega angrily said that the individuals responsible for this arms cache are responsible for the deaths that occurred and the deaths that could have occurred in a bigger explosion.

Angrily, Ortega said: They are irresponsible people and liars who have taken advantage of the friendship that was once offered to them. He urged FPL political leaders to face the Nicaraguan reality and justice.

[Begin Ortega recording] I also want to make clear that the Salvadoran FPL, a branch of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, is to be blamed for this irresponsible act. I want to make clear that the political leaders of that irresponsible organization should held accountable for that irresponsible, criminal, and immoral action. Those political leaders have abused the solidarity that we gave them in the past as revolutionaries in their struggle when we were besieged and attacked by the Reagan administration. At that time, we had to fight against counterrevolutionary forces stationed in Honduras, we were tolerant of their activities in our country, and we paid a political cost under those historical circumstances. When the war was over, we talked with all of them and we informed them of the new situation in Nicaragua. Some of them acted with honesty, ethics, responsibility, and realism and delivered all of their arsenals and weapons to the Nicaraguan authorities and to the UN Observers for El Salvador. Other groups, however, have not only deceived those of us who braved the revolution for them, they have also acted criminally before the constituted authorities that we now represent in the Army, the government, or the police. They also acted deceitfully before companeros who have identified with them politically: the leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front. [end recording]

Men Involved in Explosion Deported

PA0106004593 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Jairo Fortes, Rafael Castellon, and Pedro Larreaguete, alias Miguel Angel Larios Moreno, the men who ran the auto repair shop in Santa Rosa neighborhood, were expelled from Nicaragua. They are of Basque origin and the Sandinists had granted them Nicaraguan citizenship, thus tarnishing Nicaragua's good name with these international terrorists. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry had deported them.

The Government Ministry handled the situation with secrecy. The three terrorists were taken to Spain aboard a Spanish Air Force airplane that came directly to Nicaragua. They were led away in handcuffs to face Spanish justice on Spanish soil.

The men were turned over to Spanish justice under suspicion of involvement in the arsenal explosion in Santa Rosa neighborhood. Now a certain Sandinist organization, which supposedly defends human rights, has surfaced, making it appear as if the law has been violated by these Nicaraguans. The fact is that they are not Nicaraguans: They are members of the Spanish Basque Fatherland and Liberty Organization terrorist group.

That is the situation here in Nicaragua with these men. This has definitely been a political blow to the Sandinist Front, which protected the men.

FPL Leader Denies Link to Cache

PA2805181493 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Salvador Samayoa, leader of the Salvadoran Peoples Liberation Army [FPL], denied that the revolutionary organization has links to the weapons cache found in the Santa Rosa neighborhood. Samayoa, a few minutes before meeting with Nicaraguan Government Minister Alfredo Mendiente, said they [FPL members] came to Nicaragua to clear up who is responsible for the aforementioned cache. This is what Samayoa said:

[Begin Samayoa recording] We have nothing to do with this. We came here in response to the minister, who wanted to speak to us. We are going to speak to him and at the end of the meeting we will make further statements; however, we will not assume any responsibility in this matter.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct]?

[Samayoa] We do not have [an explanation]. That was a public document of a public congress. We have no idea why [that document] was there.

[Reporter] What about the passport belonging to a Salvadoran who allegedly was an FPL member?

[Samayoa] Look lady, you know that for 10 years there were thousands of Salvadorans living here in Nicaragua. There is no bases for us to assume that responsibility. In any event, we are going to talk to the minister in an attempt to clear up matters. We will cooperate with him because the Nicaraguan people and the Nicaraguan Government deserve our respect. We realize that this is a sensitive and serious matter so we will cooperate in every way we can. Nevertheless, it must be very clear that the FPL has nothing to do with this matter.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]?

[Samayoa] We do not have....[pauses] what we have seen in the media reports is that there are contradictory versions of what was found.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] that another Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] faction had spread rumors in Nicaragua that the Peoples Revolutionary Army [ERP] reportedly was trying to infiltrate the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces [FPL].

[Samayoa] I have heard that version, given that Joaquin Villalobos [ERP secretary general] has insisted very much that the FPL be questioned about this matter, but I do not think that they are attempting to throw fuel in a raging fire. What Villalobos has said is that we should be questioned on this because the first version issued by the [Nicaraguan] Foreign Ministry said that the [weapons] belonged to the FPL. We are going to talk to the minister and clear up matters [words indistinct] give further statements.

FSLN Issues Communique

PA2905044293 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 May 93 p 2

[Communique issued by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, National Directorate in Managua on 25 May]

[Text] The Secretariat of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, National Directorate reports that it was informed of the explosion that occurred at the Santa Rosa neighborhood early on 23 May.

The FSLN National Directorate strongly censures the people involved in the illegal activity of gunrunning and the harm they have caused to the lives of the families affected by the explosion.

The FSLN demands that the events be investigated and also calls on the government to take concrete steps to repair the houses that were damaged by the explosion.

Free Fatherland or Death,

[Signed] Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate

Opposition Blames Sandinist Leaders

PA2805174793 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Top Sandinist leaders are responsible for the explosion that rocked Santa Rosa neighborhood. The same Spaniard linked to the Santa Rosa neighborhood incident was in charge of the Alvarado Car Repair Shop where the Sandinist National Liberation Front kept another large weapons arsenal.

[National Opposition Union leader] Alfredo Cesar said that the government should conduct an indepth investigation into the responsibility of the Sandinists in the weapons cache found in Santa Rosa neighborhood. A judge has yet to open a trial on this case. President Chamorro and Presidency Minister Lacayo have not yet issued a categorical statement about it. The most serious aspect of this for the Chamorro administration is that this might not have been a simple weapons cache, but an international terrorist center.

Many countries have requested information from their ambassadors because of the large number of passports of various countries that were found. The Army and State Security are responsible for this center because they would have discovered a center of this nature had they operated with the same efficiency they display when investigating and persecuting opposition leaders, Alfredo Cesar added.

Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta made a fool out of himself by claiming that Salvadorans are the owners of this cache only because he found documents belonging to an organization of that country were found. No one believes this story in Managua.

The government and the Sandinists insist that the cache found in the Santa Rosa neighborhood belongs to the Salvadoran guerrillas. The presence at this workshop of the same Spaniard, who used to work at the Alvarado repair shop where another cache had been discovered, suggests part of the weapons and the owners are the same in both discoveries.

Sandinist media on the morning of 27 May have tried to make people believe that the Salvadorans will claim responsibility for the cache before the government. No terrorist group in any world country, regardless of how small, can have a center of this nature without internal support.

People who were at the site of the explosion early on 23 May claim they saw Tomas Borge in pajamas and several State Security members, who were crushed by what had happened.

Private Enterprise Council Wants Investigation

PA0106024393 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 May 93

[Letter from the Higher Council of Private Enterprise to President Violeta Chamorro; date not given]

[Text] Most excellent Mrs. Violeta Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua, defense minister, supreme chief of the Armed Forces, Dear Mrs. President:

Since 24 May the television, radio, and print media have carried reports that went around the world on the explosion of an arsenal in Santa Rosa neighborhood and the discovery of a large number of weapons, war (?material), and passports. This leads us to believe that the persons who built this facility and stored all those weapons acted with the knowledge and tacit consent of those who are obliged to carry out surveillance operations.

As Nicaraguans, we regret the death of any fellow citizen. Thank God the entire arsenal did not explode. We think terrorist acts such as this one discredit the nation and make us appear before the community of nations as wild people with irresponsible authorities.

It is very difficult to believe such goods could have been transported and stored without the Army intelligence services detecting irregularities or the existence of others. [sentence as heard]

As president of the Republic, defense minister, and supreme chief of the Armed Forces, you are obliged to look after the citizens' safety. Thus we urge you to order an extensive and in-depth investigation into this case and reveal its results to determine who is responsible.

The country's laws must be obeyed by citizens and foreigners alike. There are no special privileges for Salvadoran paramilitary or rebel organizations or those of any other nationality.

With renewed expressions of appreciation, I salute you cordially,

[Signed] Higher Council of Private Enterprise

Ramiro Gurdian Ortiz, president.

Telcor Attempts Repair of Destroyed Microwave Site

PA2805204993 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Managua, 28 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government on 28 May is trying to acquire in Central America, Mexico, and Venezuela, equipment to repair the microwave relay station destroyed by an armed guerrilla group. Isthmus communications were interrupted and were cut with northern Nicaragua.

Rolando Rivas, director minister of the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute (Telcor), told the media that the equipment destroyed in the attack is no longer manufactured. Rivas added that this complicates repairs to the "La Laguna" site, but indicated that enquiries are being made in Central American countries, Mexico, and Venezuela as to whether they have this equipment as surplus back-up spares, in order to request that it be sent to Nicaragua.

Rivas said that communications with Central America only suffered a three-hour interruption because after the extent of the damage was learned, "all countries selected alternate satellite connections" to reestablish isthmian communications. Communications, however, between Managua and northern Nicaragua will remain interrupted, perhaps until 1 June, because the armed group destroyed a key relay site "that serves to link communications with the north," Rivas said.

The official reported that the armed gang that destroyed the infrastructure with RPG-7 rockets and machine guns, painted a wall claiming that "Commando 380" had carried out the attack. The "380" North Front comprises former "contras" who have rearmed and are called "recontras." They have taken-up arms against the Violeta Chamorro government to defend themselves from the Sandinists and protest the noncompliance of agreements signed with the government.

Rivas added that 30 telephone workers who have begun repairs are doing so with Sandinist People's Army support, which is also guarding other microwave relay sites in Nicaragua.

Panama

Indian Leader Reports Violence Against Demonstrators

PA2805214093 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1935 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Several Indian leaders who staged demonstrations throughout the country for the second consecutive day to demand the demarcation of their regions were repressed by the National Police on 28 May. Several people were wounded and others were arrested. The National Coordinating Board of Indian Peoples of Panama [Coordinadora Nacional de Pueblos Indigenas de Panama—Conapip] had organized the protests and announced during a news conference that the National Police indiscriminately fired tear gas and birdshot to repress the Embera people in Ipeti near the Darien jungle. Four people were reported wounded. According to Conapip, riot police fired one hundred tear gas bombs at the demonstrators and inside the Indian communities, which affected women and children.

Indian leader Victor Guerra Rodriguez said four of his comrades were arrested in Chiriqui Grande, Bocas del Toro, including Dionisio Villagra, president of the Regional Congress of the Guaymi Ethnic Group, Cacique Julio Santos, and Indian Chief Celestino Villagra. Guerra added that although there was no repression in Veraguas Province, policemen were present and U.S. troops from the Southern Command were noticed in the area.

A National Police spokesman confirmed the Indians' arrest but added that they were released on 28 May by Chiriqui Grande Mayor Rogelio Smith. The spokesman said he had no reports of Indians being wounded at Ipeti. The Indian leaders, however, showed some of the tear gas canisters used by the riot policemen who reportedly used about 100 canisters. The Conapip on 27 May began what it described as a peaceful, 48-hour demonstration that included blocking some stretches of the Pan-American Highway, ports, and small airports to exert pressure on the government and demand that it expedite the establishment of reservations.

Conapip president Isidro Acosta said that once the 48 hours of strikes and protests have expired, the leaderships of the Ngobe, (Bugle), Guaymi, Kunas, Embera, and Choco ethnic groups will meet to decide whether to extend their protests indefinitely.

Protests continued on 28 May in Darien Province on the border with Colombia; in Veraguas Province, which is in the central part of the country; and in Chiriqui and

Bocas del Toro Provinces, which border Costa Rica, Acosta said, adding that the peasants are supporting the Indians.

The Indian population, which is divided into six ethnic groups, number approximately 190,000. The Indians are asking the executive and legislative branches to establish their territories.

Authorities Confirm Presence of Escobar Relatives

PA2805151493 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 28 May 93 p 1A

[Report by Juan M. Diaz]

[Text] The presence of two nephews and one niece of Medellin Cartel Chief Pablo Escobar Gaviria in the national territory has been confirmed by the Panamanian authorities. Escobar Gaviria's three relatives were forced to abandon Colombia as result of fears of being murdered.

Colombian nationals Nicolas, Roberto, and Laura entered Panamanian territory on 26 May through the Tocumen International Airport, and were granted a 30-day tourist visa. Escobar Gaviria's nephews and niece are currently registered at a local Panama City hotel.

The Colombians plan to remain in Panama for 15 days and then continue on to the United States.

On the other hand, sources close to the Colombian consulate accredited in Panama stated they were unaware of the presence of the three Escobar Gaviria relatives in Panama. However, they did point out that there is no judicial restraint orders against any of them, so they are allowed to travel outside of Colombia.

The Colombian consulate sources indicated that they were uninformed of whether or not Escobar Gaviria's relatives are receiving any type of special treatment from the Colombian Office of the Attorney General. On the other hand, press reports disclosed that the children of Roberto Gaviria entered Panama under the protection of the Colombian Office of the Attorney General.

At the same time, officials close to the Panamanian Government and Justice Ministry declined to disclose the name of the hotel were the Escobars are registered for security reasons.

Argentina

Government Okays UK Investigation of 'Executions'

PY3105213993 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2003 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 May (TELAM)—Government spokesmen confirmed to TELAM that Argentina today consented to a proposal from Great Britain to officially begin "an exhaustive investigation" into the alleged executions of Argentine soldiers during the Malvinas Islands war.

Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella today held a 30 minute meeting with British Ambassador to Argentina Humpry Maud to deliver the national government's consent to the British investigation.

Foreign Ministry sources confirmed to TELAM that Scotland Yard experts will arrive in Argentina in the coming weeks to begin the "exhaustive investigation."

Defense Minister on Investigation

PY3105160393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2221 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Santa Rosa, 29 May (NA)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion said here today that "it is impossible to grant salary increases to Armed Forces personnel this year." He also promised to support the Scotland Yard investigation into alleged executions of Argentine soldiers in the Malvinas Islands during the 1982 war.

When questioned by journalists who covered the Army Day ceremony, the minister said "there will be no military salary increases" because "the budget is closed."

"Only next year will we be able to include in the budget a salary increase for military personnel on active duty," he said.

Camilion added that "we will support the work that Scotland Yard soon will carry out in our country."

British police officials, he said, will arrive in Argentina on an unconfirmed date "to question some soldiers who fought in the Malvinas."

He also said that in his ministry, as well as in the Argentine Foreign Ministry, "internal investigations will be intensified" to determine "whether we can definitively clarify the issue."

Speaking on another subject, the minister told journalists that the sanction against the former de facto president, retired Lieutenant General Alejandro Agustin Lanusse, will be ratified even if he appeals the sanction, given his controversial statements about President Carlos Menem.

"I will not accept any petition of reconsideration. I will ratify the sanction imposed on Gen. Lanusse," Camilion said.

Former President Lanusse Sentenced to House Arrest

PY3105134693 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 May 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] (DYN)—Former de-facto president Alejandro Agustin Lanusse was sentenced to 15 days of house arrest yesterday [28 May] for whipping harsh remarks at top military officials and criticizing them for ignoring the salary issue.

Lanusse highlighted some burning issues that are currently scorching the military and publicized his opinion about the supposed conditions of President Carlos Menem's "woman-hunting" and "frivolity" during a special dinner Thursday night attended by military leaders.

Army Chief-of-Staff Martin Balza made the decision to sanction Lanusse after the retired general questioned the integrity of the head of state and military during a dinner marking the 20th anniversary of the return of Peronism.

Lanusse, who was leader of Argentina from 1971 to 1973, reiterated his cutting remarks yesterday on Radio Mitre.

While a formal punishment was issued within 24 hours of Lanusse's verbal offensive, and it remained unclear whether Balza gave him the opportunity to retract his statements as is done in some cases.

Following the sentencing, Lanusse said that the military leaders "seem to ignore the (salary) issue, although they make unproductive efforts (to improve it)."

He also said that some Armed Forces personnel are supporting themselves with a second source of work in spite of current legislation that prohibits from having any other non-military-related employment.

"Outside work is prohibited, but there are people who are doing this out of necessity," Lanusse remarked before criticizing Menem.

"Judging from his daily activities, the President strikes me as frivolous" he commented, and added: "I also have the impression he contradicts himself all the time, one day he says one thing and the next day he says another."

Brazil

Government 'Laments' U.S. Decision on Intellectual Property

PY2905030893 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco today released a communique regretting the U.S. decision to begin investigations against Brazil for reported irregularities in the intellectual property area.

The communique, read by the president at the Brazilian Embassy in Montevideo, reaffirms the decision adopted on 30 April to resort to GATT if Brazilian commercial interests are affected by unilateral decisions.

[Begin Franco recording] The Brazilian Government laments the U.S. Government decision, especially the fact that the progress made to provide the country with a modern intellectual property law compatible with its new industrial policy has not been adequately considered.

The Brazilian Government reaffirms the terms of its press communique issued on 17 April 1993, and its resolution to resort to the mechanisms provided for by GATT should Brazilian commercial interests be affected by possible unilateral decisions.

In this regard Brazilian representatives to GATT have already referred to this matter at the GATT Representative Council session held on 2 May 1993, when they received the support of several other delegations.

The Brazilian Government reiterates its interest in preventing isolated matters from disrupting one of its most important commercial relations, which has been characterized by growing and smooth understanding. It therefore again urges the U.S. Government to review its position in order to overcome this episode as soon as possible. [end recording]

Franco Reiterates Criticism

PY2905173893 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco today, his last day in Uruguay, issued a recommendation to politicians. The president said that as of now political parties will be responsible for the ministers they recommend.

Today is the sixth and last day of President Itamar Franco's official visit to Argentina and Uruguay. This morning the president visited Aladi [Latin American Integration Association] headquarters in Montevideo. He said that trade between Latin American countries is increasingly more important, adding that the figures for 1991 show that total internal trade reached $15 billion while trade increased to $31 billion during 1992. The president praised the growth of South American economies and again criticized the U.S. Government's decision to investigate Brazil for violations of industrial policies. The president said here that he will discuss cabinet changes only after returning to Brazil. But he anticipated that political parties will share an increasing responsibility for ministers they recommend:

[Begin recording] Therefore, political parties will be responsible for defending or withdrawing their ministers if irregular situations in the government increase. They also will be responsible for seeing that their nominees fulfill their obligations. [end recording]

President Itamar Franco will return to Brasilia tonight.

Franco Signs Agreement on Integration With Uruguay

PY2905032693 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpts] Presidents Itamar Franco, of Brazil, and Luis Alberto Lacalle, of Uruguay, signed today in Montevideo a joint declaration stressing the development of the integration process between the two countries. In the declaration the two presidents also stressed the importance of dialogue and of strengthening the region. [passage omitted]

Early in the afternoon at the Brazilian Embassy in Montevideo President Itamar Franco gave a reception in honor of his Uruguayan counterpart, Luis Alberto Lacalle, where a joint declaration was released outlining the main points discussed by the two presidents.

To begin with they stressed the concrete achievements that had been made in the integration process, based on the treaties signed in Brasilia in 1969, in Montevideo in 1990, and in Asuncion in 1991. They also pointed out that the Rio Group has been consolidated as a mechanism for consultation and regional agreement, and is considered internationally as a political interlocutor.

They also stressed the importance of dialogue and of the political strengthening of the region. They agreed to hold, during the second half of this year in Brasilia, the second meeting of the General Coordination Commission created by the 1975 treaty. They also stressed the governments's decision to support UN urbanization actions in order to safeguard international peace and security and promote development. [passage omitted]

In the 30 items of the declaration they confirmed the creation of a commission to study the construction of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] highway linking Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina, the exploitation of the Uruguay River as a waterway, and the purchase of Brazilian electric energy by Uruguay. [passage omitted]

Chile

Authorized Demonstrations on 27 May End in Arrests

PY2805150493 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] We will now read a report from the Carabineros on the events that followed demonstrations yesterday afternoon in Santiago that had been authorized by the Santiago Municipality:

As a result of the incidents, 34 people were arrested for disrupting public order, damaging private property, and attacking Carabineros officers. Five women and 29 men were arrested.

Here is the list of incidents registered: A group of demonstrators gathered outside the National Library. They hurled Molotov cocktails, stones, and sharp devices at private vehicles, buses, and Carabinero vehicles circulating along the Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue. We must also mention a bomb attack against La Pintana city hall. The bomb was planted some 500 meters from the city hall and only caused material damage.

Another bomb was planted at the foot of a street lamp post at 4209 Brisas del Maipo Street, in La Cisterna neighborhood.

Yet another bomb was hurled into the gardens of the CTC [Chilean Telephone Company] on the corner of Central and Leon XIII streets, Los Lillos. The explosion shattered windows.

Nine Bomb Attacks Reported

PY2805185193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1724 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Santiago, 28 May (EFE)—Police sources today reported that nine bomb attacks took place and 34 individuals were arrested during several street demonstrations against poverty that took place on 27 May organized by leftist organizations.

The bomb attacks, against the tomb of former President Eduardo Frei (1964-1970), some bank branches, city halls, squares, political parties headquarters, a Mormon church, and private companies, were attributed to the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) Autonomous Faction.

Today at 1600 GMT troops in combat uniform were deployed around the Armed Forces building downtown Santiago without giving any reasons.

The presence of the troops, whose officers only told the media that they were complying with orders, has caused great expectation and unrest. The authorities have not given any explanation.

Interior Minister Enrique Krauss told the media that "if there is no official information it means nothing is going on."

Some radio stations said that a similar deployment of troops took place at the Military School in the residential district of Las Condes. The situation in the military school was nonetheless normal, according to what some journalists who visited the place later verified.

The police reported that FPMR Autonomous Faction pamphlets were found were the bombs exploded. The explosions caused considerable property damage but no victims.

The arrests took place when the Carabineros (militarized police) repressed a "march against hunger" staged by 2,000 people along Alameda Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue, the main Santiago avenue. The march had been authorized by the Santiago municipality.

While the leaders of the organizations that staged the demonstrations yesterday accused the police of unleashing "a brutal repression against peaceful demonstrators," the authorities asserted that the forces of order acted when the demonstrators attempted to march along streets where they had not been authorized.

The demonstration was organized by the movement "For a Fair Chile Against Poverty," linked with the Communist Party of Chile and the Allendist Leftist Democratic Movement (MIDA) which also launched the presidential candidacy of priest Eugenio Pizarro for the general elections next December.

The demonstrators demanded the freedom of political prisoners, a demand that motivated some incidents in front of the prison where 18 people remain imprisoned since the former military regime (1973- 1990).

The incidents began when the relatives of the political prisoners demonstrated outside the prison—on Santo Domingo Street, in downtown Santiago, 600 meters from La Moneda government house—and they were repressed by the police.

The inmates reacted by taking over some prison sections and by hurling fruit and other objects at the police forces who answered with water jets into the prison, which is only an old mansion transformed into a prison.

The leaders of the movement "For a Fair Chile Against Poverty" today denied any responsibility in the attacks which they attributed to the "members of the former security organizations of the past regime."

They also demanded the resignation of Interior Minister Krauss whom they blamed for having ordered the repression against the demonstrators on 27 May.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Patricio Rojas announced a thorough investigation of the attack against the tomb of former President Frei, an action which he labeled as

"unwise" and as a signal that the 27 May demonstrations "were a complete failure organized by a small group."

Reportage on 'Unusual' Troop Movement, Military Meeting

Troops Surround Armed Forces Headquarters

PY2805174493 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 May 93

[Relay from the Armed Forces Headquarters by Gerardo Beltran]

[Text] An unusual situation arose when at least 13 members of the Army Special Forces surrounded this building, at 46 Zenteno Street. At least 13 members of the Army Special Forces, wearing black berets and armed with combat weapons including rifles, bazookas, and rocket launchers, are still surrounding the building.

Nobody has yet explained the reason for this action but the situation is returning to normal and the circulation of people and media representatives in front of the building has not been restricted.

The situation is also confusing for Carabineros that have come to the site and are unable to determine the reasons for this unusual situation. It should be pointed out that a few minutes ago three Carabineros commanders entered the Armed Forces headquarters and later left without making any comment.

All that can be seen at this moment are members of the Armed Forces leaving the building. We have also seen Army officers entering with spare uniforms.

In the meantime the situation at the Defense Ministry is normal. It was also disclosed that Minister Patricio Rojas is there and that he might give an account of what happened in a few minutes. It has still not been determined whether he will do so at the Foreign Ministry or at the Defense Ministry. This remains to be confirmed.

According to unofficial information, these are just operations to prevent terrorist activities like those that surfaced late yesterday as a result of a demonstration organized by leftist sectors not represented in Congress.

According to unofficial sources, similar movements have been registered at the Army's Military School in Peldehue and the (Tangra) regiment.

It has also been reported that a lengthy meeting, headed by Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet, is currently underway within this building. Members of the Army high command, corps of generals, as well as members of the Army's communications department, headed by Colonel Jose Garcia Ferlice and Press Secretary Mayor Jose MacLean are reportedly participating in the meeting.

At this moment the Army officer's are very reserved and have refrained from making any comments or voicing an opinion on this unusual movement which started this morning outside the Armed Forces's headquarters.

Situation at Military School 'Normal'

PY2805175693 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 May 1993

[Report by Lidia Fuentes from a mobile unit]

[Text] The situation at the Military School, in the eastern part of Santiago, is normal. An unusual deployment of troops in downtown Santiago created great anxiety among press members who, alerted by the alleged troop deployment, concentrated at the Military School. After inspecting the Military School and its facilities, we learnt that the situation is entirely normal.

The Military School Public Relations representative has confirmed that all activities are absolutely normal. He said:

[Begin recording] I have no information on that. Anyone concerned about the issue must approach the Army Public Relations Department, which has more information on the situation. They have information on a broader area of our society. [end recording]

The Military School, which is in the Eastern part of our capital, houses a large number of military area members. They are all busy with their normal activities.

According to political sources, the unusual troop deployment was a result of a liaison exercise [ejercicio de enlace]. None of these reports, however, has been confirmed.

Defense Ministry Downplays Maneuvers

PY2805180593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1729 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Santiago, 28 May (EFE)—Defense Ministry sources have said that the deployment of military troops in combat gear around the Chilean Armed Forces' headquarters, opposite La Moneda Palace, was part of the security measures in view of possible attacks like those perpetrated yesterday, 27 May, in Santiago.

The same sources said that special security measures had been adopted because a warning of a possible attack was received at the office of General Augusto Pinochet, commander in chief of the Army and of the Army High Command.

The sources noted that Pinochet is currently heading a meeting of Army generals scheduled one and a half months ago.

The deployment of troops, which began shortly after noon (1600 GMT), followed an unscheduled meeting of the Interior Security Committee, at La Moneda Palace.

At that time Investigative Police Director Nelson Mery suddenly left a news conference to attend the meeting.

Enrique Krauss, interior minister and vice president of the Republic, and President Patricio Aylwin, who is visiting Denmark, downplayed the event by responding to a journalist's question, that "it means nothing is happening if there is no official information."

Some radio stations also reported the deployment of troops at the Military School, situated in the residential Las Condes area, but journalists who visited the site were able to see that was not the case.

La Moneda sources asserted that the Security Committee did not meet. What was held was a meeting of the "intelligence consultative committee" which usually takes place on the last Friday of each month.

Aylwin Sees 'No Reason for Unrest'

PY2805183793 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1758 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] This is a last minute report by journalist Maria Angelica Rodriguez, who is covering President Patricio Aylwin's tour, on the events taking place in our country and the comments by President Aylwin.

[Begin relay] [Rodriguez] A few minutes ago, here in Copenhagen, President Patricio Aylwin stated that democracy in Chile is not at stake. The chief of state referred at length to the developments in Santiago.

[Aylwin] What I know, because I have just spoken to the vice president of the Republic and the defense minister is that the Army generals have already finished their meeting. It is not true that the Defense Ministry nor any Army unit is surrounded by troops or anything of the sort. The meeting was allegedly summoned to discuss an issue being handled by the Court which is an independent branch that acts freely. The case has been brought before he Court by the State Defense Council, which is an autonomous organization. The executive branch has no say in this matter. I do not see why court proceedings should create unrest or prompt deliberations in any institution. In any case, whatever may happen, the vice president of the Republic at this moment heads the Chilean executive branch and enjoys my full confidence.

[Rodriguez] [question indistinct]

[Aylwin] I see no reason for unrest. There is no reason why order should be disrupted merely because a case is brought before Court.

[Rodriguez] [question indistinct]

[Aylwin] I have nothing more to add.

[Rodriguez] Is democracy at stake, Mr. President? [relay ends without answer to final question]

These comments were made a few minutes ago by President Aylwin in Copenhagen where it is now 2000. This was Radio Chilena reporting from Denmark.

Socialist Leader Notes 'Unusual Deployment'

PY2805191493 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1810 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] A delegation of socialist congressmen, headed by Senator Ricardo Nunez, has arrived in the La Moneda Palace. He has just been interviewed.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Senator, what is happening?

[Nunez] We have received information that an unusual event has taken place. The government is currently assessing the situation.

We understand there are various factors—which have still not been sufficiently explained—that reportedly motivated this unusual deployment of troops. Nevertheless, we are sure the government will very soon explain this event to the public, that all the information and absolutely all the elements that might have disturbed the tranquillity of the citizens will be explained to all Chileans.

[Reporter] Was President Patricio Aylwin informed?

[Nunez] We have been told that he was continuously informed. Nevertheless, he is very calm and, as usual, very clear about the decisions that will have to be made as soon as the situation is better known.

[Reporter] What is the real reason for this deployment that you are mentioning?

[Nunez] Various factors or reasons are apparently combined. Nevertheless, the basic reason apparently is that the State Defense Council, which, as we all know, is an autonomous organization, has decided to pursue an issue. According to its organizational law, it is the State Defense Council's duty to pursue this issue. This involves a report supplied by the Chamber of Deputies after the latter thoroughly investigated the so-called Pinochecks [Pinocheques] issue. Because it is an autonomous organization that must abide by the law, the State Defense Council apparently pursued the course established by its organizational law.

[Reporter] what is your opinion on this reaction?

[Nunez] Well, I have already stated it. In fact, we have strengthened the democratic system in our country. Among the elements and values of a democratic system there is one establishing that no organization, institution, party, or citizen may resort to force or threaten to use force to pursue a decision that appears to be appropriate to a given sector, person, or institution. Therefore, expressions of force will not be supported by the citizens because in this country all Chileans clearly want to preserve the institutional and democratic order. I believe no one is jeopardizing it. [end recording]

Troops Reportedly Confined to Barracks

PY2805195793 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1925 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] According to unofficial reports that have not yet been confirmed, Army troops have been put in state of alert 1, that is, they have been confined to barracks.

We are in front of the Armed Forces' building at 45 Zenteno Street, waiting for a communique that, according to what has been said, might be released during the afternoon.

The press and the people who have gathered in some areas remain expectant.

Carabineros, however, have cleared the area in front of the building's facade, closing the area in front of the building's exit to civilians.

We reiterate that according to unconfirmed reports the Army has been placed in state of alert 1, that is, confinement to barracks, after the generals' committee and the group of generals met at this building this morning.

It has also been reported that special Army troops have reinforced the guard around the building. In addition, the change of guard has already been made, and everything is apparently normal.

Government Evaluates Army Actions

PY2805202393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1916 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Santiago, 28 May (EFE)—According to radio reports, Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa today suspended his trip to the Second Region, in the northern part of the country, and hurried back to the Chilean capital in coincidence with the troop movements in Santiago.

However one may interpret the security measures adopted at the Armed Forces headquarters, "the country can remain calm" and any action jeopardizing democratic institutions is out of the question, said Correa to Radio Cooperativa from Antofagasta, 1,360 km north of Santiago.

Correa said that the institutions are solid and have the massive support of the population.

He also asserted that the government would evaluate the situation created by the "special tasks or special program" carried out by the Army. He added: "If there are no institutional reasons for them they are not correct, because the Army should be concerned with institutional matters."

A number of politicians have been in permanent contact with the Interior Ministry, such as Socialist Party President German Correa, who said that a meeting of generals "should not produce actions creating public alarm."

Socialist Senator Ricardo Nunez, after meeting with Enrique Krauss, interior minister and acting president, said that an Army explanation is expected, but pointed out that any demonstration of force does not have the people's support in Chile.

Students Protest Army Actions

PY2805221193 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2053 GMT 28 May 93

[Report by Gerardo Beltran—live or recorded]

[Text] Members of the Federation of Catholic University Students and of the Federation of University of Chile Students are demonstrating in the vicinity of the Armed Forces building.

Let us listen to the FECH [Student Federation of Chile] president, who is now delivering a speech:

[FECH president] We Chileans have conquered democracy, and the destiny of this country must be defined by us. That is why we, the youths, are here to reject this confinement to barracks or whatever, because we will not tolerate being forbidden to continue to live in democracy. That's all. [applause]

[Beltran] The students are waving a placard reading "Military men, back to your barracks" and signed by the Socialist Youth. Socialist Youth members and leaders are thus now near the Armed Forces building.

An Army general is now leaving the building. Generals have been leaving the buiding for some minutes now. We can see that the general, dressed in plain clothes, is being escorted by a vehicle. He is being booed by students at the corner of Zenteno and Alameda Streets.

The youths are there, and the generals are leaving the building through different doors. Some generals, like General Hernan Ramirez Rurange, are leaving the building dressed in combat fatigues. We could see Gen. Ramirez Rurange leaving a short time ago. Gen. Guillermo Garin, the chief of the advisory committee to Gen. Pinochet, has also left the building. He was not dressed in military fatigues, but was escorted by several vehicles with plainclothes Army personnel.

The situation became a bit tense a few minutes ago after the arrival of the students, who are being controlled by Carabineros, who closed the area in front of the main entrance to the Armed Forces building at 45 Zenteno Street.

War Under Secretary Says 'Calm' Prevails

PY2805222093 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2140 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] War Under Secretary Marcos Sanchez, who visited the Christian Democratic Party headquarters this afternoon, has said that nothing unusual is happening within the Army at this time.

Asked if there was unrest within the Army due to the reopening of the checks case involving one of General Augusto Pinochet's sons, Sanchez reiterated that there is absolute calm within that Armed Forces branch, adding that he had been maintaining contact with Army Command headquarters.

Gutemberg Martinez, acting president of the Christian Democratic Party, said that nothing unusual was happening within the Army. Nothing has happened, he stressed, adding that his party is following the official reports on the mater. Martinez also said that Under Secretary Sanchez's visit was to brief party leaders regarding an alleged Army mobilization. Gutemberg Martinez insisted, however, that everything is normal.

Pinochet, Others Conclude Meeting

PY2905011893 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 May 93

[Report by Patricio Parragues from mobile unit]

[Text] A few minutes ago Captain General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, the Army commander in chief, left the Armed Forces building at 45 Zenteno Street near the corner of Alameda Street.

We should recall that an excessive deployment of troops strongly attracted our attention the entire afternoon, and focused attention on this area.

The group of generals who met at the building began gradually to leave. Army Deputy Commander Lieutenant General Jorge Lucar was one of the last to leave. He left at 1920. At 1953 Gen. Augusto Pinochet left the building.

Some members of the group of special forces and Army parachutists are still inside the building.

The situation has thus gradually become less tense.

Government Communique: Situation 'Normal'

PY2905012793 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] We have a report by Veronica Franco from La Moneda. Good afternoon.

[Franco] Good afternoon. So far the only official government report on the troop deployment in Santiago this afternoon is a concise communique. The communique, which was read by War Under Secretary Marcos Sanchez, stated that the situation in the country is absolutely normal, and reaffirmed the Army communique on the deployment of troops around the Armed Forces' building.

The 10-line communique was released in La Moneda by Under Secretary Sanchez a few minutes ago, after a meeting he held with Vice President Enrique Krauss and Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa:

[Begin Sanchez recording] In the face of rumors caused by the unusual deployment of Army troops reinforcing the Army guard at the Armed Forces building, the government asked for pertinent information from the institution's command. The institution's command reiterated that—as was stated in its communique—the meeting of the Council of Army Generals was held today in line with its planning activities.

All national defense institutions are performing their habitual tasks normally. [end recording]

[Franco] Under Secretary Sanchez declined to answer journalists' questions, reiterating the text of the communique in reply to all questions posed. He rapidly left the press room.

Minister Correa came to the press room only to announce that Sanchez would read the communique. Correa also rapidly left the room.

Aylwin Says Democracy 'Not Endangered

PY2905130393 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 May 93

[Excerpts] After receiving news of an unusual troop deployment in Santiago, President Patricio Aylwin said democracy was not endangered in Chile. The president commented on the Army's state of alert a few minutes before attending a reception hosted by the Danish prime minister at the Danish Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

The news of an unusual military deployment in Santiago reached Copenhagen shortly after the Chilean president had granted a news conference. In this conference he said the stability of democracy was not endangered. He added that now it must be fostered by improving the electoral system, eliminating the appointment of senators, and modifying the law that prevents Armed Forces commanders in chief from being removed from their positions.

In another meeting with the press, President Aylwin said that, according to news received by him, there was no unusual deployment of military forces in the streets. He said government officials had reported from Santiago that there was absolute normalcy in country.

Spokesman Denies 'State of Alert 1'

PY2905185293 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 May 93

[Report by Andrea Villena from La Moneda]

[Text] The government has reported that in the next few days the Army will explain better the details of the situation that caused unrest in the country yesterday, when military control around the Armed Forces Building was increased.

Government Secretary General Enrique Correa reported a few minutes ago that at 1300 yesterday afternoon Vice President Enrique Krauss met some generals at La

Moneda. Correa asked for an explanation of the unusual deployment of Armed Forces personnel. Correa added that the government branches are autonomous, that there is freedom of expression in the country, and that our democratic consolidation will continue. He confirmed that the military operation conducted yesterday was an institutional action:

[Begin recording] Because it was an institutional measure decided upon by the Army, it is up to this institution to give more detailed explanations on the operation. We are only interested in confirming the basic principles that have been guiding our actions and that will continue to do so. We are only interested in ensuring, within the framework of the rights and duties assigned to us by the law, that each government branch and organization fulfills its duties. [end recording]

Correa reported that during the meeting with the council of generals, the case of the checks handed to [Army Commander in Chief Augusto] Pinochet's son was discussed. He denied, however, that the government and the Army are negotiating to [words indistinct] situation that occurred around the Armed Forces Building. In conclusion, he denied that the government declared State of Alert 1 yesterday.

Army Generals, Pinochet Resume Talks

PY3005023993 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] The military cordon put up by the Army around the Armed Forces building yesterday created an undeniable atmosphere of uncertainty. Beyond the brief official declarations, which minimized the event, evaluations agree that the Army wanted to convey its annoyance over several events which the Army considers attempts to compromise its integrity.

The government, through Minister Secretary of Government Enrique Correa, emphatically reiterated the democratic principles prevailing in the country. At the same time a group of generals continued holding several meetings, one of them at the house of Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The presence of soldiers armed with machine guns and rocket launchers, who surrounded the Armed Forces building in Bulnes Park, created concern in some sectors. Was this the effect sought by the Army high command? The information from the corps of generals indicated that this is the way the institution expresses its annoyance in the face of certain events that have taken place recently. These include the government insistence on modifying the organic law of the Armed Forces, the judicial proceedings on human rights, the pardon of political prisoners, and the checks paid to General Pinochet's son. There is also the case of the charges made by National Renewal President Andres Allamand about military intervention in the center- right sector, and the statement made by Senator Sebastian Pinera about the alleged burning of the report on the telephone tapping case, of which Pinera was a victim.

Today, however, the situation of the guards at the Armed Forces building was absolutely normal. But this morning an undetermined number of generals arrived here again. Just like yesterday the generals tried through all means to avoid the press. There was some play, such as false departures, to allow the high-ranking officers to leave through doors that were not watched by the reporters, such as was the case with Eugenio Covarrubias, chief of the Army Intelligence Directorate, Dine.

This afternoon a new meeting was held at the house of Gen. Pinochet with the participation of General Covarrubias, Army Inspector General Jorge Ballerino, advisory committee chief Jaime Concha, and Army Auditor General Fernando Torres Silva, among others. There was again complete secrecy about the meetings:

[Torres Silva] Issues related to our work only.

[Reporter] What about yesterday's events?

[Torres Silva] Good evening. [end recording]

Spokesman Terms Actions 'Notification'

PY3005033193 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] The Army did not issue any new declarations today, but Colonel Christian Labbe, Retired, who has often been considered the unofficial Army spokesman, told this television station that the events that took place yesterday constituted a notification [tengase presente] to political sectors.

[Begin Labbe recording] I believe there are sectors in the government who knew that this issue was complicated; they knew that the situation was being complicated as a result of certain attitudes, of some harassment, and even of some degree of irresponsibility regarding the civic-military relationship, which I believe was coming along very well, especially because the harassment was over.

But every time there is an harassment or an action, there will be a natural reaction. The persistence of political sectors in harassing the position and role of the Armed Forces is very clear. This can be seen by the insistence on returning to a reform in the Armed Forces organic law, which had already been rejected, a reform that received the negative opinions of the three commanders of the Armed Forces and of the Carabineros director. There is also the incomprehensible attitude of the defense minister, who supported the opinion of a politician on the political espionage case when the minister had already received six months ago a report on this issue.

These events were creating an environment of tension and conflict which, without any doubt according to my judgment, finally precipitated the big headline in an official daily about an event such as the case of the National State Council. It seems obvious to me, and it

should be said that these events constitute a notification to political sectors, which I believe are abusing the stoical and patient attitude of the Armed Forces. [end recording]

Government To Request Explanation

PY3005034893 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 May 93

[Recorded remarks by Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa are enclosed in quotation marks]

[Text] At around noon today Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa spoke firmly about the events that the Army had recently staged. He reiterated that the government had been informed of the meeting of Army generals. He explained, however, that in view of the unusual deployment of Army personnel the government had asked the Army for an official explanation.

"It is true that the vice president of the nation met with Army generals yesterday. These generals briefed him on the various issues that were being dicussed at the Council of Generals. The vice president conveyed to the generals the government's position regarding this situation.

"Chile is enjoying a state of law that we have attained at great cost. Among the key principles of this state of law is the freedom and independence of the various branches of the state, the freedom and rights of the citizens, and respect for the powers and prerogatives that the law awards to the various state organizations.

"In Chile, the courts have independence, and freedom of expression prevails and will continue to prevail. The State Defense Council is a totally independent organization of the state, especially so after the law recently approved by Congress and promulgated by the president of the nation.

"As in any other country that enjoys a state of law, laws are drafted in keeping with a procedure set forth in the Constitution and with the cooperation of two branches of the state: the executive branch and the legislative branch. This is the way it should be according to express provisions of the 1980 Constitution as amended in 1989. We must all respect this Constitution unhesitatingly.

"This is the way things are, and this is the way they will be in the future. None of the principles on which our democracy is based can be perceived by anyone as a threat. On the contrary, everyone must perceive these principles as protection.

"It is normal for any social or state institution to feel concern under given circumstances. The Army is no exception. The important thing, however, is to never forget that these concerns should be expressed and resolved through institutional channels. The main accomplishment of our transition is having built an honorable and respectable institutional order which is respected by all. This institutional order guarantees the peace that we all want to last."

The minister was then asked whether the action of the Army could have been prompted by a series of events that had upset this institution.

"I have already said that even if there is concern, it should be expressed through the appropriate institutional channels.

"The commander in chief of the Army has already voiced his opinion about the Armed Forces organizational law in Congress. Congress listened respectfully to his opinion, and it will be taken into account. It is, however, a bill of the executive branch, and it is up to Congress to vote on it.

"As to the case that is being investigated by the State Defense Council, this organization is entirely autonomous, and violating this autonomy would imply inflicting serious, long-term damage to our institutional order. The charges will be evaluated by the appropriate courts in accordance with the laws, and fully respecting the rights of the parties involved.

"There are no negotiations under way between the executive branch and the Army. This is an orderly country enjoying a state of law; the administration is the supreme authority of the state and it does not have to negotiatiate with other components of the state. Such negotiations would be improper in a state of law.

"We want to reaffirm the basic principles. This is what we have been doing and will continue to do. It is our objective to make sure that each branch of the state will be able to perform its duties within the framework of the law."

Correa denied that the Army had asked for the resignation of Defense Minister Patricio Rojas.

"That is not the case, and if it were to happen the Army would be overstepping its jurisdiction. The ministers of state are appointed by the president and removed at his discretion. No one can interfere with the president's decision."

Kraus Says Relations With Army 'Tense'

PY3105140793 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Vice President Enrique Krauss admitted that the government's current relations with the Army are tense. Krauss asserted that the executive branch is expecting a new Army declaration on the state of alert.

On 30 May, Minister Krauss met with acting Interior Minister Belisario Velasco and Planning Minister Sergio Molina. During a chat with the media at the end of the meeting, Velasco disclosed no official information on the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Velasco] There is no information on what we discussed at this meeting.

[Unidentified reporter] Minister, don't you think the citizenry has a right to know about [words indistinct].

[Velasco] Of course. I believe the citizenry is very well informed about everything happening in the country. But as you well know there are secret meetings about which no information can be disclosed. [end recording]

Arturo Frei, a member of the Senate's Defense Committee, also attended the meeting. Frei told the media that he was working to find a solution to the present tense atmosphere:

[Begin recording] Everyone is aware that a crisis surfaced; that is undeniable, and I am working to overcome it. [end recording]

In the afternoon, Defense Minister Rojas received Rear Admiral Jorge Arancibia, national defense chief of staff, who said he discussed a trip he is scheduled to make shortly with Minister Rojas.

Rojas later attended a meeting at the home of Vice President Enrique Krauss, which also was attended by Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa.

At the end of the meeting Krauss finally talked with journalists. When asked whether the government is concerned about the unusual deployment of Army troops, he said:

[Begin recording] [Krauss] By no means. In a democratic system where a state of law prevails there is no reason to fear these kinds of developments, which are undoubtedly unusual and may bring unrest, and in our opinion should not take place. Therefore, we are willing to adequately face these developments through a dialogue in search of the solution if it is in our hands, if not, through the corresponding channels, always respecting the corresponding autonomous institutions.

[Unidentified reporter] Have you discussed the solution to these disagreements with the Army in the past few hours?

[Krauss] No. We hope to do so tomorrow when we have some solutions... [changes thought] No, it is unusual. No, I have made no decision on the subject. The defense minister is in charge of the relationship with the armed institutions and he should tell me when and with whom I should meet. I am very willing to meet and find a solution.

[Reporter] How would you describe current Army-government relations?

[Krauss] It is an objectively tense relationship as a result of the interpretation of some measures implemented on 28 May and of some rumors spread regarding certain positions but, objectively speaking, I see no reason for unrest. I do not think we will reach extreme positions that will harm, not only the country as such, but also our democratic experience, and the institutions that may adopt measures that cause tension.

[Reporter] Yesterday the minister secretary general of government said the government had demanded an explanation from the Army. Is the government satisfied with it?

[Krauss] No. I haven't heard such an explicit explanation as the one you are talking about. What we are awaiting is a complementary declaration to the one issued yesterday explaining the scope of some of the measures the country learned about through press reports. [end recording]

Moreover, Krauss asserted that he is in permanent contact with President Patricio Aylwin, who continues to tour the Nordic European countries.

In the meantime, meetings also were held at the home of Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet. General Jaime Concha, head of the Army's advisory committee, and Army Inspector General Jorge Ballerino attended these meetings.

'Tension' Over Army Actions 'Decreasing'

PY3105213393 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 May 93

[Report by Teresa Barrios from La Moneda]

[Text] Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa today asserted that there is a series of reasons for the unrest within the Army, but added that in a state of law there are institutional channels to express these concerns and that this is what is being done.

[Begin Correa recording] I would say that the tension is decreasing. Last Saturday, 29 May, we realized that there was unrest but there are institutional channels through which these concerns can be expressed. We are constantly reporting to the president on the issues we believe are most important, and (?all this will be solved) when the president returns. [end recording]

Regarding Christian Labbe's comments that the confinement to barracks constituted a notification [tengase presente], Correa said that the government has no civilian spokesman and that it always voices its concerns through their chain of command. Correa also expressed his hope that this sort of incident would not occurr again.

Correa made these comments after a meeting he held with Vice President Enrique Krauss, Defense Minister Patricio Rojas, and the presidents of all the coalition parties.

Army School Head on 'Loyalty' to Pinochet

PY0106032393 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 May 93

[Excerpts] The Chilean Army Infantry School today celebrated a new anniversary with a demonstration of physical defense and an exercise attack on an enemy radio station.

The ceremony, which concluded with a military parade, was headed by Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet, who was wearing fatigues. Pinochet's fatigues and the simulated attack marked variations in the ceremony, which is traditionally held at the Army Infantry School in San Bernardo every year. In addition, this time the members of the press were put in a balcony far away from the stand for military officials.

The single speaker at this event was Infantry School Director Colonel Juan Carlos Salgado, who said the excercises were symbolic acts to honor the presence of the Army chief and other high military guests.

[Begin Salgado recording] Through a selected group of comrades, who will today receive the recognition of the institution for their self-denying service to the Army in general, and to the infantry in particular, we will renew our dedication to the service of the fatherland and to the Army of Chile, as well as our unbreakable loyalty to the institutional principles represented in the person of our commander in chief, Captain General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte. [end recording]

After Salgado's speech medals and decorations were given and the military exercises began. [passage omitted]

The ceremony concluded after General Pinochet reviewed the troops and then got into his automobile, leaving without having any contact with the press.

Government, Military Officials Meet

PY0106034893 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Excerpts] High Army officers and government officials held at least two meetings over the last few hours. While neither the government nor the Army reported on the meetings, the two sectors did recognize, however, that the tension between the civilian and military sectors which began on 28 May is begining to decrease.

Early this morning the leaders of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy arrived at La Moneda Palace to meet with the highest government leaders. This regular Monday meeting was dedicated to the events that took place on 28 May at the Armed Forces building. The government officially reported to the Coalition of Parties for Democracy about the talks held with the Army, and about the concerns expressed by military leaders over the case of the checks paid to the son of General Augusto Pinochet and reforms to the organic law of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

A special meeting was held just after noon today at which acting President Enrique Krauss briefed cabinet ministers on the situation. In the meantime, Generals Jorge Ballerino and Jaime Concha, who are in charge of the talks with the government, were seen coming in and out of the Armed Forces building. [passage omitted]

A few minutes ago Senate President Gabriel Valdes said at La Moneda Palace that the tension between the civilian and military sectors will be overcome within the next few hours. There was a meeting at La Moneda Palace today between the ministers of the political area and congressmen of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, to study the future legislative agenda for the remainder of the presidential term. [passage omitted]

Analysts View Situation

PY2905024593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2255 GMT 28 May 93

[Report by Manuel Maria Meseguer]

[Text] Santiago, 28 May (EFE)—Political analysts have agreed that Army generals today implemented unusual security measures to signal that the Army feels uncomfortable with some situations.

The deployment of elite guards brandishing submachine guns and rocket launchers around the Armed Forces building, which is located in front of the La Moneda presidential palace, generated confusion among the population and political circles, who are absorbed in the electoral campaign for the second presidential election following the withdrawal from power of "de facto" President Augusto Pinochet.

Defense Minister Patricio Rojas said that despite reports explaining the situation, no one asked permission to reinforce the guard at the Armed Forces building this morning.

Proof of the existing confusion were Patricio Aylwin's statement from Copenhagen, Denmark, stressing that the situation was under control; the silence of Enrique Krauss, acting vice president and interior minister, seated in La Moneda; and the hasty return of Enrique Correa, minister secretary general of government, from Antofagasta.

In the port city of Valparaiso, Congress's administrative personnel received orders to remain in their positions the entire day, even though Congress had not met the entire week.

Meanwhile, Carabineros (militarized police) Investigative Police sharpshooters positioned themselves on the rooftops of nearby buildings as a precaution against possible attacks against the building where Army Commander in Chief Augusto Pinochet was meeting with senior generals. This meeting lasted five and a half hours.

Sources consulted by EFE analyzed—within the existing confusion—the meeting of the high-ranking officers, and concluded that it was a signal of unhappiness with political events in the past few weeks.

The left-wing parties' protest mobilizations on Thursday, followed by the explosion of a dozen bombs and the mutiny of political prisoners, were viewed as demonstrations of violence in the general climate of dialogue and consensus prevailing in Chile today.

Diplomatic sources also agreed that Patricio Aylwin's address to the nation on 21 May, attended for the first time in three years by General Augusto Pinochet, contained particularly harsh paragraphs against the previous military administration.

In the speech Aylwin repeated his previous position on the need to amend the Armed Forces organic law which prevents a president from appointing commander in chiefs. This law also grants these commanders total autonomy.

From the conservative front, National Renewal President Andres Allamand complained a few weeks ago about Army pressures, among other things, for the politicization of the Armed Forces.

Senator Sebastian Pinera, a member of this conservative party, and its usual ally, the more conservative and pro-military Independent Democratic Union (UDI), denounced military irregularities in the espionage case that affected Pinera in August of last year.

Pinera said at a forum convened by the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Chile on 27 May that the Armed Forces had to be subordinated to the civilian power and their activity subordinated to the national budget.

Observers agreed that these remarks, the decision of the State Defense Council to reopen the "Pinochecks" case [investigation into checks paid by the Army to Pinochet's son] involving the depositions of various generals, and the depositions' publication in the official newspaper LA NACION, could have been the last straw and the reason behind the military show.

In 1989 the Army paid Augusto Pinochet Hiriart, the son of who was then the "de facto" president, $3 million in checks for the sale of the company Valmoval Inc. to the Army. The State Defense Council, however, considered the operation a fraud. The case is popularly known as "the Pinochecks case."

The Army made a general call to self-confinement to barracks when details of this sales operation were published in December 1990. The incident was later euphemistically called a "liaison exercise."

Political Leaders on 'Deplorable' Actions

PY3005041393 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] The leaders of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy have emphasized that the Army must respect democratic institutions and support the way the government dealt with the events that took place yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Party for Democracy President Sergio Bitar] The government acted they way it had to: to establish normality, to give a signal of normality. I believe, however, that there is evidence of things that created alarm, and which seem to be related to a court investigation about the checks of General Pinochet's son. I believe if that relationship is established, if there is that evidence, if that evidence is demonstrated, I would reiterate that this is deplorable, because the Chilean Armed Forces have a monopoly on the weapons given them by Chileans to safeguard us from external attacks, but never to make threats over an investigation into checks by Chilean justice.

[Socialist Party President German Correa] The Chilean courts are independent. The State Defense Council is independent, and nobody can carry out actions preventing the institutions from functioning normally, even if it sometimes affects the interests of people or sectors for actions that may be against morals and regulations.

[Radical Party President Carlos Gonzalez] There was never any intention of harassing the Armed Forces, and much less the Army. We should therefore talk with them so that they can have that certainty and security.

[Unidentified reporter] Was it an Army message?

[Gonzalez] Without any doubt. This is the way they express themselves. It is a cryptic way of doing so, which one has to try to understand.

[Socialist Party Vice President Gutemberg Martinez] It seems to me incredible and absolutely to be rejected that some kind of pressure is being put forward in the face of the fact that the courts are reacting to situations reported as crimes. The rumors seem to me incredible. It seems to me therefore more prudent to accept the official version. [end recording]

Colombia

Defense Minister Denies Army Unit Lost Escobar Trail

PA2905190393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda on 29 May denied the reports that the Army Search Unit lost the trail of drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria. He stated that the authorities continues to work intensely throughout Antioquia.

[Begin Pardo recording] We do not want to create a big fuss over unconfirmed reports or news. [end recording]

Concerning the meeting with high-ranking Ecuadoran military officers, the minister stated the meeting was aimed at reaching accords to counter the group of Ecuadoran drug traffickers operating along the border and avoiding the smuggling of dynamite.

[Begin Pardo recording] Organizations engaged in drug trafficking activities are operating along the Colombian border. We are persecuting and fighting them. [end recording]

In two months, top Ecuadoran military officers will meet with Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda in Colombia to determine the results of the accord.

Escobar Associate Gutierrez Surrenders to Authorities

PA3105013293 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Medellin—Gustavo Adolfo Gutierrez, alias Trapeadora, a man close to Pablo Escobar Gaviria, turned himself in on 29 May. Gutierrez is from La Estrella Municipality. The authorities consider him to be one of the most important members of the band lead by Johnny Edison Rivera Acosta, alias El Palomo, who was killed by Search Bloc forces on 27 November 1992 in Balcones de Sevilla Neighborhood, Itagui Municipality.

According to security organizations, Gutierrez was one of the men closest to Mario Alberto Castano Molina, alias El Chopo, who was killed by the Search Bloc in a downtown Medellin building. Gutierrez is reported to have once run for mayor in La Estrella Municipality.

The surrender process had been at a standstill for the past 40 days since the 19 April surrender of Eilen Antonio Acevedo Calle, alias La Chepa, who was confined in Bellavista National Prison.

Official sources told Caracol that Gutierrez had to surrender because he was being hunted down by groups of unidentified individuals who on 29 May kidnapped three of his friends. Two of them were later found dead in La Inmaculada neighborhood of La Estrella Municipality.

At 2140 Gutierez was taken to the Itagui National Prison, where 17 other men trusted by the aforementioned boss of the Medellin Cartel are incarcerated.

President Rejects Rumors of Family Corruption

PA3005214093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 May 93

[Report by Raul Gutierrez]

[Text] In a letter to EL ESPECTADOR editors, President Gaviria urged the Attorney General's Office to investigate the alleged favoritism shown to his brother, Juan Carlos, as the builder of housing projects authorized by the National Urban Reform Institute [Instituto Nacional de Reforma Urbana—Inurbe]. He also disclosed that he has asked Jorge Hernan Munoz, his brother-in-law, to restrict his personal and business affairs with the state. The president's brother-in-law is said to be an insurance agent favored by government institutions. Gaviria said inquiries were made into that assertion and nothing was confirmed. He added that if the assertion turns out to be correct, he will firmly condemn such conduct. The president defended Colfuturo, a foundation headed by his wife that grants scholarships for postgraduate studies abroad. We also spoke with the government minister, who is said to have ordered a large contribution to that foundation.

[Begin recording] [Villegas] The Attorney General's Office has never talked about corruption or misappropriation of funds in Colfuturo. As a legal argument, the Attorney General's Office has considered the possibility that constitutional Article 355, which prohibits donations or subsidies to private foundations, might have been violated. In this case it must be stressed that Colfuturo is not a private foundation. Colfuturo is a joint foundation whose creation is authorized by the Science and Technology Law. It uses funds from public and private sectors for a social purpose: the education of Colombians.

[Gutierrez] As secretary general of the presidency, why did you contribute $8 million?

[Villegas] First of all, $8 million have not been contributed. The Presidency Administrative Department contributed 1.8 billion pesos. We did so because the national budget established that those funds were to be used for that purpose: for the creation of Colfuturo, for the education of Colombians abroad, through the transfer of funds by the Administrative Department. [end recording]

Thus the government believes it has acted correctly and disagrees with those who assert that the president's family is involved in corruption and misappropriation of funds.

Ecuador

Bomb Explodes in Industries Building; No Injuries

PA2805133193 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1208 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] A powerful bomb exploded in the Industries Ministry building at 2300 [0300 GMT] last night, seriously damaging the first story and a adjacent store. No injuries were reported.

Bombs Explode Over Weekend

PA0106140993 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Police spokespersons reported that bomb attacks occurred in Latacunga and Riobamba. On 29 May, at 0130 [0600 GMT], a bomb exploded at the home of Abraham Romero, a provincial deputy for the Republican Unity Party, in Riobamba. This explosion left only material damage. In Latacunga, at 2315 on 29 May [0414 GMT 30 May] a stick of dynamite exploded outside the main entrance of the Cotopaxi governorship, causing damage to the building. The National Police is investigating the attacks to try and capture those responsible.

United Workers Front Strike Ends

PA2805140593 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0120 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The United Workers Front's [FUT] strike has come to an end. Union leader Juan Andrade announced that shortly after midnight [0400 GMT] FUT's labor committee agreed to suspend the strike that had been declared on 26 May. The workers demanded the government's attention and immediate, honest talks leading to positive agreements. The committee says the strike was declared to demand the elimination of an antinational policy, job stability, and the right to own land, among other issues.

After two days of stoppage, normal activities resumed on 28 May. Classes, however, will continue to be suspended until Monday, 31 May.

Strikers Refuse To Leave Quito Basilica

PA2905004793 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2305 GMT 28 May 93

[Report by Francisco Sanchez in Quito]

[Text] Labor union and groups that seized the basilica in Quito have questioned the decision by United Workers Front [FUT] leaders to back down by suspending the national strike. Diego Ordonez, executive secretary of the Ecuadoran Social Security Institute Workers Union, said it is a sign of weakness.

[Begin recording] [Ordonez] We urge the leaders to come here and answer us. All the organizations gathered here demand an answer! They must explain why the measure was suspended without taking other opinions into consideration. The social security workers' situation is not like our situation. The first thing they did last time was release the prisoners, at least the peasants, in a dignified way. [angry voices heard in the background] We demand that the prisoners be released before we leave the church!

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ordonez] We have issued an appeal. Rural doctors are about to declare a hunger strike, and we urge social groups in our country to support the measure. We believe it is important to tell them they should not give in and abandon their position! Here is a group of people who are alive, at least, and they can tell you many things. They represent our people's reality; children sleeping on doorsteps covered with newspapers! The strike was suspended without reason. Either we come out of this with our dignity intact or we do not come out! [end recording]

Paraguay

JEC Reports Election Results for Capital, Localities

PY2805225093 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 May 93 p 8

[Text] According to the final electoral results released by the JEC [Central Electoral Board], of the 235 localities in which the elections were held on 9 May, Colorado Party candidate Juan Carlos Wasmosy won in 173, Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] candidate Domingo Laino won in 55, and National Encounter [EN] candidate Guillermo Caballero Vargas won in 6, including Asuncion.

In Asuncion, the victory of the EN candidate was not as overwhelming as expected, because Caballero Vargas won in only three of the six Asuncion electoral districts: La Encarnacion, La Catedral, San Roque, and La Recoleta [as published]. For his part, Wasmosy won in Trinidad and Zeballos Cue. The difference between the two candidates was not very big: Caballero obtained 85,469 votes and Wasmosy obtained 78,895 votes—that is, a difference of only 6,574 votes.

If compared with the results of the municipal elections of 1991, it should be emphasized the the PLRA won in a larger number of towns. During the municipal elections the PLRA won in 42 towns, some of them very important Central Department towns. It should be noted, however, that in the 9 May elections the Colorado Party recovered its electoral support in the major towns of that department, at least in the elections for president.

The most important towns in which Laino won are Concepcion, San Pedro, Caacupe, Caaguazu, and Pedro Juan Caballero. Only Pedro Juan Caballero has a Liberal mayor.

From the viewpoint of support for the presidential candidate, the Colorados recovered their electoral support in Ypacarai, San Lorenzo, Lambare, and Mariano Roque Alonso. Wasmosy also won the elections in 14 other towns run by PLRA mayors. For his part Caballero Vargas won in Fernando de La Mora and San Antonio, two localities that are run by PLRA mayors.

Laino won in 29 localities run by Colorado mayors. In the election of governors, however, the results were different.

Congressional Committee Unanimously Approves Voting Records

PY3105162393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 31 May 93 p 2

[Text] The joint congressional committee yesterday issued a decision unanimously approved by all its members on the voting documents it began analyzing on 25 May. It annulled the vote tally records of 127 of the total 8,455 voting stations in the Republic. The results confirmed that the opposition will hold the majority in both the Chamber of

Deputies and the Senate. The opposition also gained two more governorships, taking them away from the Colorado Party, which had unofficially claimed them in Concepcion and Boqueron. The congressional committee decided that the opposition gained two more seats in the lower house, one for the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] and another for the National Encounter [EN]. There were no changes in the results for president and senators. It is thought that Congress will consider these results tomorrow during a plenary session.

With the issuance of a unanimous decision, the congressional committee that carried out the initial review of the vote tally records of the 9 May elections finished its work yesterday. Now a plenary Congress session must discuss the committee results before proclaiming the elections' official winners.

After finishing an analysis of the vote tally records from the most controversial places, the congressional committee released a decision signed by all its members. This document recommends approving the results of the 9 May elections after annulling several voting records whose figures were obviously forged in favor of Colorado Party candidates.

The congressional committee elected Senators Jorge Raul Garcete, Rodolfo Gonzalez Garabelli, and Fernando Vera, and Deputies Eduardo Venialgo and Miguel Angel Ramirez to draw up a final document on the election results.

According to committee members, the final decision will be submitted to a plenary Congress session tomorrow to definitively judge the 9 May general elections.

The congressional committee annulled 127 vote tally records out of the total 8,455 voting stations that operated in the whole Republic. Results in the following departments were annulled: 41 voting stations in Concepcion; four in San Pedro; 14 in Cordillera; two in Guaira; 14 in Caaguazu; six in Itapua; one in Misiones; one in Paraguari; four in Alto Parana; nine in Central; 19 in Amambay; one in Canindeyu; two in Presidente Hayes; two in Alto Paraguay; seven in Boqueron; and one in Capital in the La Encarnacion voting district.

The only two departments where the congressional committee did not annul results were Caazapa and Neembucu.

The document drawn up by the congressional committee states that it has been unanimously decided to annul the results from the aforementioned voting stations as well as the results from some voting stations that were initially protested. They also decided to send Congress a final decision stating the exact criteria regarding certain situations or circumstances that do not affect the figures of the final results but affect nonincidental circumstances on the material state of the documents that were examined.

The annulment of more than 100 vote tally records has given the governorship of Concepcion to the PLRA and of Boqueron to the EN. The PLRA also has gained another deputy seat in Concepcion while the EN gained another one in Boqueron. The election results for president, vice president, and the Senate will not suffer any changes in comparison with the unofficial results released by the Central Electoral Board.

Germany, ROK Congratulate Wasmosy on Election Victory

PY2905122093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 May 93 p 6

[Text] ROK President Kim Yong-sam offered his congratulations to Juan Carlos Wasmosy for having been elected the new head of state and acknowledged the success of the ANR [National Republican Association-Colorado Party] at the polls.

According to the note, which was made public by Wasmosy's press office, Kim put Wasmosy's success down to his "vast experience as well as his dedication and devotion to the Paraguayan people."

The note sent from the ROK further states that Wasmosy's election to the presidency will enable the strengthening of democratic principles as well as the Republic of Paraguay's social and economic development.

Kim added: "I am sure that during your term of office, the bonds of friendship and cooperation existing between both our countries will be strengthened."

Likewise, German President Richard von Weizaecker has conveyed his congratulations to Wasmosy for having obtained a majority over his rivals in the recent general election in our country.

The German Government expressed its hope that Wasmosy will continue furthering and strengthening democracy as well as the rule of law in the Republic of Paraguay.

Ecuador, UK Recognize Wasmosy's Election Victory

PY2905180493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 May 93 p 7

[Excerpt] The UK and Ecuadoran Governments yesterday recognized the victory of President-elect Juan Carlos Wasmosy, who won the recent general elections according to unofficial results.

Wasmosy first met in his residence with UK Ambassador Michael Dibben, who handed him a congratulatory message and thus the recognition of Wasmosy's virtual election victory by the UK Government currently headed by Prime Minister John Major.

Dibben also extended to Wasmosy his best wishes for the success of his administration.

The likely president-elect also met Ecuadoran Ambassador Gustavo Cordobez Pareja, who handed him a

message sent by Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran Ballen. The note recognizes Wasmosy's victory in the 9 May election and confirms Duran Ballen's presence at the 15 August inauguration ceremony. [passage omitted]

Peru

Fujimori Denies Economy Minister's Possible Resignation

PA2905023193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has denied the possible resignation of Economy Minister Jorge Camet, with whom he admitted having slight differences regarding the management of the economy.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, over the last few days we have heard about the economy minister's discomfort. There has been much talk about Minister Camet possibly resigning. Could you dismiss or clarify this affair?

[Fujimori] I flatly dismiss it. There are always differences on some management affairs, but in general terms there is obviously complete agreement on the economic program. We must persevere in this program. All the sectors must persevere, not only the government but also the productive sectors.

The program is a long term economic plan that, as you all know, covers the period up until 1996, and that is the reason for the help we are receiving, for instance, in dealing with the foreign debt.

[Reporter] Do you support Minister Camet's work at this moment?

[Fujimori] Of course. I fully support it.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Fujimori] Except for inflation, which has been relatively high as we did not expect the 4 percent rates over these first three months, the rest is going well. We expect to reduce the inflation for the rest of the year. I expect May's inflation rate to be approximately 3 percent.

[Reporter] There are some who applaud your decision to pardon 11 military officers who participated in the coup attempt, but others say that for full reconciliation in the country it would be necessary to pardon the rest because they all committed the same crime.

[Fujimori] The 11 officers who have been pardoned are the first group; this is the first stage. I will continue to evaluate the context in which pardons could be granted in the future.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Fujimori] I cannot give you any dates.

[Reporter] Mr. President, regarding General Chirinos' explanation of the charges made by Gen. [Rodolfo] Robles, do you dismiss the existence of a death squad within the intelligence service, within the Army?

[Fujimori] I believe that affair has been completely clarified. There is no policy for the violation of human rights as has been hinted. Gen. Robles' statements have been totally disavowed by Gen. Chirinos himself. [end recording]

Fujimori Departs for Japan, Other Countries 29 May

PA3005123393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori began a tour of Japan, South Korea, and the United States on the early morning hours of 29 May. He will visit these countries to sign major agreements.

President Alberto Fujimori will be on tour until 9 June. In the next 10 days, he will visit Japan, where he will meet Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. In the land of his ancestors, the head of state will sign a agreement in which Japan will give $6 million to the agricultural sector. Afterward, the president will make an official visit to South Korea, a country that is greatly interested in investing in Peru.

Two days later, Fujimori will arrive in Los Angeles, California. There he will explain the achievements of his government.

[Begin Fujimori recording] This is probably my 20th or 21st trip abroad. As always, I am on a campaign to improve Peru's image. I am also trying to obtain even greater assistance in different areas.

I take advantage of this opportunity to make some comments on or announce some supreme decrees or bills approved on the night of 28 May at the Ministers Council. First, we have formalized the bill extending the repentance law to those who are serving jail sentences for treason to the fatherland and who wish to receive the benefits of this law. They must provide information on terrorist organizations.

Another major bill approved by the Council deals with the punishment for causing disturbances, for example, calling so-called compulsory strikes. The Council also approved measures to fight smuggling in the transportation sector. [end recording]

Before departing, the president was seen off by cabinet ministers and members of his family, who are not accompanying him on this trip.

Yoshiyama Acting President

PA3005123593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Democratic Constituent Congress President Jaime Yoshiyama will be in charge of the presidency as of 29 May, until President Alberto Fujimori returns on 5 June [date as heard].

Correspondent Highlights Tokyo Trip

PA3105153593 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1216 GMT 31 May 93

[Telephone interview with "Good Morning, Peru" newscast correspondent Jose Marino, who accompanies President Alberto Fujimori in his current visit to Tokyo, Japan, by newscast anchorman Gonzalo Iwasaki—live]

[Text] [Passage omitted] [Iwasaki] We received cable information, which you confirmed by telephone a few seconds ago, of a donation made by the mother of a Japanese finance minister who was recently in our country. The woman, I believe, donated $230,000 to build a school. What can you tell us about this?

[Marino] As expected, the Japanese Government reiterated its full support to President Alberto Fujimori's administration. Among other things, the support is noticeable with Foreign Minister Kagun Muto's announcement that Japan would give Peru $50 million in economic aid to further our country's stabilization process. Muto, however, stated that the emergency phase in Peru is ending and that, from now on, Japan's backing will be addressed to the reinforcement of specific development programs that will benefit both countries. This position was reiterated by Japanese Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi to President Fujimori at a later meeting.

Another important meeting was the one held with Deputy and former Finance Minister (Rinstao Hashimoto), who visited Lima last month to inaugurate a school built with Japanese donations. We want to highlight that Hashimoto promoted the establishment of the first support group to get Peru to reenter the international economic system.

[Iwasaki] Right, Hashimoto and Brian Mulford of the United States were the ones who called the countries, which later became the support group, to meet in Nagoya. This is where the group started.

[Marino] They gave us the first stop-gap loan.

[Iwasaki] Correct. Talking about credits, Jose, how should we view the aid that has been promised by Japan? Is it economic aid to be added to what had been established previously? Is it a soft loan? Is it a donation or part of their cooperation? What can you tell us about the money that they have been talking about during the president's current visit to Japan?

[Marino] It is not a loan or a gift. Let us say, it is a loan on very easy terms. I mean, it is a soft loan that has to be paid when and however we want. Those are the terms. The use given to the money is to be determined in later negotiations. They still have to determine what percentage will be used for agriculture and [word indistinct]. How the loan will be invested is still to be determined.

Let me tell you about a human interest event in the president's visit. The active role was played by (Matsu Utsumi), the mother of former Finance Minister (Utsumi Makoto), who also visited our country some time ago. Mrs. Utsumi donated $250,000 out of her personal fortune to build a school in a low-income area in Lima. She said that her son had told her that a Peruvian youth did not have a place to study in an area on the outskirts of Lima, so she donated $250,000 of her money to build a school in Peru. This is a singular event in this formal visit, which usually only includes conventional meetings between Japanese Government officials and President Fujimori.

[Iwasaki] In addition to the Japanese Government and political circles, have you seen Japanese people express their liking for the Peruvian president?

[Marino] The people showed their affection and recognized the president when he arrived at the Narita airport. Also, several Peruvian citizens, who work at the airport, left their jobs, which are very strict here, and came to pay their respects. The media has amply covered this unofficial visit. The main Japanese newspapers and mass media television stations have reported the activities of the Peruvian delegations and the meetings with Japanese authorities and representatives.

[Iwasaki] Briefly and to end our conversation, what is the president's agenda from now on? What is the agenda for 1 June and the following days?

[Marino] On 1 June, which is the last day of President Fujimori's visit to Tokyo, he will meet with (Iagushi), the president of Lexinbank. He will also meet with Prime Minister Kiishi Miyazawa. Early in the morning, he will be received by Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace. Those are the most important meetings in the 1 June agenda. President Fujimori will also meet with Japanese businessmen at one of the buildings of the business group. He was received at this same place last year. He will meet with the businessmen again to talk about aid and mutual cooperation programs between Japanese and Peruvian businessmen.

[Iwasaki] Jose, thank you very much for the report. We await your video on the president's activities, which we will show in the "24 Hours" evening newscast.

Venezuela

Acting President Says He Will Leave Post 'Soon'

PA2905011693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2245 GMT 28 May 93

[By Alfonso Navarro]

[Excerpts] Caracas, 28 May (NOTIMEX)—Venezuelan Acting President Octavio Lepage said on 28 May it is possible that on 1 June he will turn over power to an acting president, who must be appointed by Congress.

"The acting presidency will soon end," Lepage told Radio Caracas Radio and added that his short term in office, which began on 21 May was an attempt to stabilize the heated political climate and keep the economy running.

Lepage, age 59, replaced President Carlos Andres Perez, who was suspended by the Senate so he could face charges of corruption and embezzlement at the Supreme Court.

"I will possibly turn over power to my successor," Lepage said at the Miraflores Palace, the seat of the Venezuelan Government.

His statements at least revealed there could be an agreement among the country's leading political forces regarding the name of the acting president, who will be put in charge of the executive branch until February 1994.

Congress President Luis Enrique Oberto said at about the same time that "there are still many names to discuss before choosing the acting president and I do not think there is anyone over which an agreement can be reached at this time."

The decision made by the ruling Democratic Action (AD) to accept the demands made by the opposition to have a successor for Lepage before 20 June and the request made by the legislators to appoint the new acting president as soon as possible were seen as the points of consensus on 28 May to end the political uncertainty.

Three persons are being mentioned for the acting presidency, but the dispute is centered on historian and AD Senator Ramon J. Velazquez, age 74, and the former president of the Supreme Electoral Council, Carlos Delgado Chapellin, age 60.

Velazquez, an old political fighter, former editor of EL NACIONAL newspaper, and former chief of the State Reform Commission, was seen as the candidate of consensus over the Miraflores "line" favorable to Delgado Chapellin.

The third "candidate," the president of Venezuelan Petroleum (Petroven), Gustavo Roosen, age 48, apparently did not win support from the ruling party to rule the country in the next nine months.

Observers said Delgado Chapellin, who identifies with AD, could be mistrusted by businessmen because of his alleged position of taking a radical turn in the country's economic adjustment policy and dismissing the entire cabinet inherited from Perez.

Lepage said he is unaware of the apparent support given by AD strong man and Secretary General Luis Alfaro Ucero to the candidacy of Delgado Chapellin and said Perez' definitive successor must be a man of consensus and not a figure "who could be manipulated from a distance." "He must be a man who can promote reconciliation, harmony, a man capable of generating a feeling of national solidarity, he must be capable of lifting the self-esteem of the Venezuelan citizen, which has been down so long, he said. He said it will be up to the next government to make adjustments to the government's economic policy to deal with the "drama" in the agriculture sector and in the small- and medium-size industry, sectors hurt by the high interest rates (85 percent).

Lepage said, however, that the economic policy implemented by Perez in 1989 must be kept "in essence" because it "was part of a good strategic plan."

As for his succession, Lepage said Congress must accelerate the appointment of the acting president and not wait for his term to be up on 20 June, according to the interpretation of the Constitution made by the leading opposition forces. If Lepage's prediction is correct, his government would have lasted only 11 days in which, according to him, an effort was made to preserve the democratic institutions, which were weakened by two unsuccessful coup attempts in 1992.

Oberto said Congress would continue this weekend with the consultations initiated on 26 May to search for a definitive successor for Perez. He said that on 31 May a special commission will outline the procedures for the secret election at the Legislative Branch. [passage omitted]

Coinciding press reports said the new acting president would be appointed on 1 June, but the leaders of the two major political parties were cautious and said 3 June would be a tentative deadline.

Grants Interview to EL TIEMPO

PA2805215493 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 May 93 pp 1, 10A

[Interview with Venezuelan acting President Octavio Lepage by reporter Carolina Esquenazi Shaio at Miraflores Palace in Caracas; date not given]

[Text] [Esquenazi] How would you describe yourself?

[Lepage] I have been in public life for a long time. I was foreign minister for three years during Perez' first term. I was again foreign minister for three years under Jaime Lusinchi. I have participated in congressional debates for years; I have been a deputy and senator. I am pleased to have an honest political image.

[Esquenazi] How would you describe yourself as a person?

[Lepage] Well, in general terms I believe I am a good person. A good father, friend, and citizen. It is a little unpleasant to say it yourself. It is difficult to take an honest look at yourself...

[Esquenazi] What are your three priorities?

[Lepage] First, to promote a broad national understanding among the basic political forces and certain very influential sectors such as production organizations, professional associations, labor unions, and the church. It is essential for us to reach an agreement. The cabinet might be a reflection of this unless my stay is very brief; in that case it would not make much sense. Since we are this close to the December elections I do not believe that any party will agree to join a cabinet at such a critical and controversial time.

If possible, however, the cabinet must be formed by well known figures of acknowledged competency, honor, and respectability to create a political foundation [darle piso politico] for this difficult and risky transition. For the first time in our history a constitutional president elected through free elections must stand trial and has had to relinquish power. I do not know what reaction to expect but I am sure that this situation has shocked many people. Individuals or groups that are interested in making the December elections difficult or impossible could take advantage of the situation.

[Esquenazi] What risks are involved?

[Lepage] The risk that this state of confusion may generate disturbances, terrorism... It is not that there is a specific threat. To say so would create unjustified concern. However, the potential threat exists. Therefore, we must unite; all of the sectors that are interested in bolstering, defending, and further stabilizing democracy should unite to project an image of solidarity and strength.

[Esquenazi] And what are your second and third priorities?

[Lepage] Second, there is collective anguish over a deterioration of personal safety. We must tackle this problem. It is not that previous governments did not deal with it but the programs that were applied did not yield many positive results. I do not yet have plans but I realize we must call on the most experienced individuals to start applying measures, at least gradually, to fight this problem more vigorously.

Third is the economic problem. We are facing problems. We would have to review the policies that have been applied to determine which ones will be maintained and which eliminated. We must make an evaluation. It was a mistake or ill-advised to apply too much dogmatism to this set of measures inspired in neoliberalism. Our reality, idiosyncrasy, and current democratic model were not taken into account sufficiently. President Perez did not reach the self- criticism phase that I think we should now start.

[Esquenazi] Do you think it is advisable to change other policies or positions of the previous government?

[Lepage] We must rectify many things in the country's leadership. Some mistakes discredited the political class.

[Esquenazi] Which mistakes?

[Lepage] Many. It is difficult to list all of them. One of them, for example, is the divorce between leaders and the people. Another is the exaggerated prevalence of active [activa] politics that suffocated the role of civilian society. Yet another: The low level of participation in a democracy.

[Esquenazi] How do you view integration with Colombia? Will this process be affected in your administration?

[Lepage] Integration has yielded concrete and positive results. It would make no sense to paralyze it.

[Esquenazi] What will you do to ease social discontent?

[Lepage] We must first bear in mind the social situation is not very satisfactory; that the middle class has faced a proletarianization process; and that the standard of living, far from improving, has perhaps worsened. This has happened amid a Venezuelan people who, thanks to an abundance of petroleum resources, are used to a quite satisfactory standard of living. We were not used to belt tightening and we must do that now and quite strongly.

[Esquenazi] Do you think, then, that Perez' reforms were in general adequate and necessary?

[Lepage] Basically yes. We would have to, however, rectify the course of the economy.

[Esquenazi] Is there still a possibility of a coup?

[Lepage] I do not think so. The situation has calmed down since the incidents of 27 November (date of second military uprising) and the developments of the past few days. The suspense surrounding the elections has also help isolate the coup promoters.

[Esquenazi] What will the composition of your cabinet be?

[Lepage] That depends on how the difference over the interpretation of the Constitution regarding the length of my term is settled.

Ambassador To Guatemala Recalled for Consultations

PA0106022293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0008 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Caracas, 31 May (EFE)—Sadio Garavani, Venezuelan ambassador to Guatemala, said on 31 May that opposition to President Jorge Serrano is very clear

because it ranges from the extreme left to the federation of enterprises, including all the media.

The Venezuelan diplomat was recalled to Caracas for "consultations" and to draft a report that will be the basis of Venezuela's position at the OAS meeting on 7 June.

Garavani said rejection in Guatemala to President Serano's self-inflicted coup is accompanied by international rejection evidenced by the withdrawal of ambassadors and the application of unilateral economic sanctions by countries such as Germany, the United States, and Spain.

The diplomat said the Venezuelan political situation has influenced the crisis unleashed in Guatemala because the decision to place President Carlos Andres Perez on trial on embezzlement charges caused the topic to be brought up in Guatemala in terms of possibly taking Serrano to trial for alleged corruption. "The break in the parliamentary alliance between the ruling party and its allies caused a strong clash in the Guatemalan Congress that was fueled by rumors of corruption at the highest government levels. That clash and the news of President Perez's trial allowed certain congressmen to propose that Serrano be brought to trial," Garavini said.

The Venezuelan ambassador added: "Nevertheless, that situation is no justification for President Serrano's actions or breaking the constitutional order."

Guido Grooscor, Venzuelan ambassador to the OAS, met today with Foreign Affairs Minister Fernando Ochoa. Grooscor said Venezuela's position at the OAS debates on Guatemala will be revealed on 1 June.

Clashes Erupt Prior to Elections in Cumana, Barinas

PA2905024293 Paris AFP in Spanish 0017 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Caracas, 28 May (AFP)—Reliable sources reported that clashes involving party members, residents, students, and policemen broke out on 28 May in Cumana (350 km east of Caracas) and Barinas (480 km southwest of Caracas), where gubernatorial elections will be held again on 30 May.

Four students were arrested in clashes with policemen in Cumana, where Ramon Martinez of the leftist Movement Toward Socialism and Gaston Navarro of the ruling Democratic Action Party are contenders, the local Innac news agency reported.

Residents pelted five policemen with stones, local radio stations reported.

In Barinas, where Christian Democratic candidate Gerard Cartay and the current Democratic Action governor are contenders, party supporters engaged in a clash that left an undetermined number of persons injured and vehicles damaged, Innac reported.

The party supporters threw stones and bottles and fired shots in the air, Innac reported.

The gubernatorial elections in Sucre and Barinas Provinces will be held again on 30 May following countless charges that there had been fraud in the 6 December regional and municipal elections.

Officer Involved in Foiled Coup Escapes From Prison

PA2805155693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1328 GMT 27 May 98

[Text] Caracas, 27 May (NOTIMEX)—A military officer involved in the February 1992 coup attempt escaped on 27 May from the San Cristobal Penitentiary, in southwestern Venezuela, just a few hours before suspended President Carlos Andres Perez arrived on a visit, the radio has reported.

Lieutenant Jose Gregorio Zambrano, who a few weeks ago was transferred from Caracas to San Cristobal, 810 km to the southwest, escaped by dressing as a prison guard and wandering outside during a power outage that was provoked by a heavy rain.

The Radio Caracas Radio (RCR) station said that Zambrano reportedly announced threats against Perez, who was expected on 27 May in San Cristobal for the opening of a Colombian-Venezuelan journalists' meeting.

Troops from the National Guard and the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DIM) conducted raids in San Cristobal, capital of Tachira State, which is near the border, searching for the escaped prisoner.

Nationalist military officers on 4 February 1992 staged the first of two attempted coups d'etat in Venezuela.

After he escaped from prison, Zambrano subsequently kidnapped three different taxi drivers in order to get further away from the penitentiary, RCR reported.